



Year 9 Guided Pathways

Making good decisions for you



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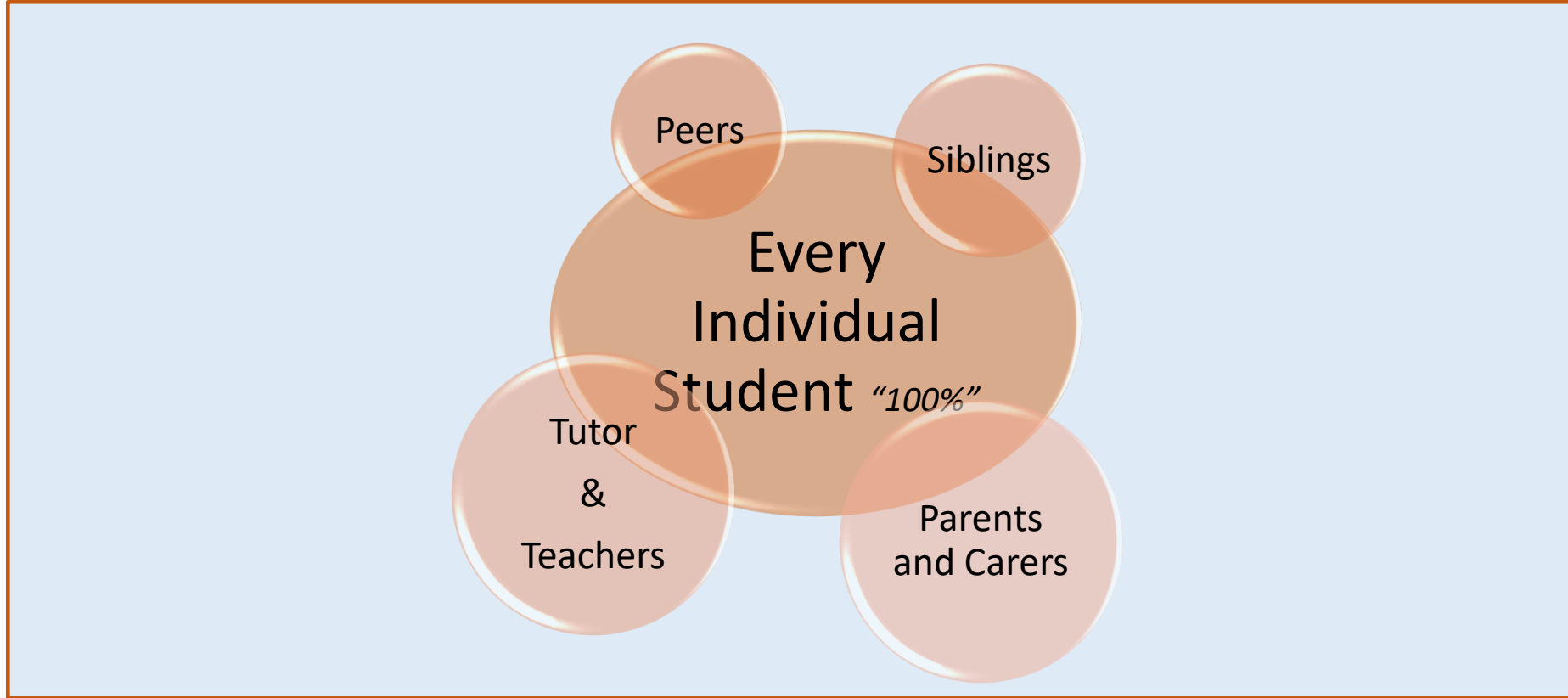


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Support – That is individual to the student





The Core Curriculum: Lessons for all



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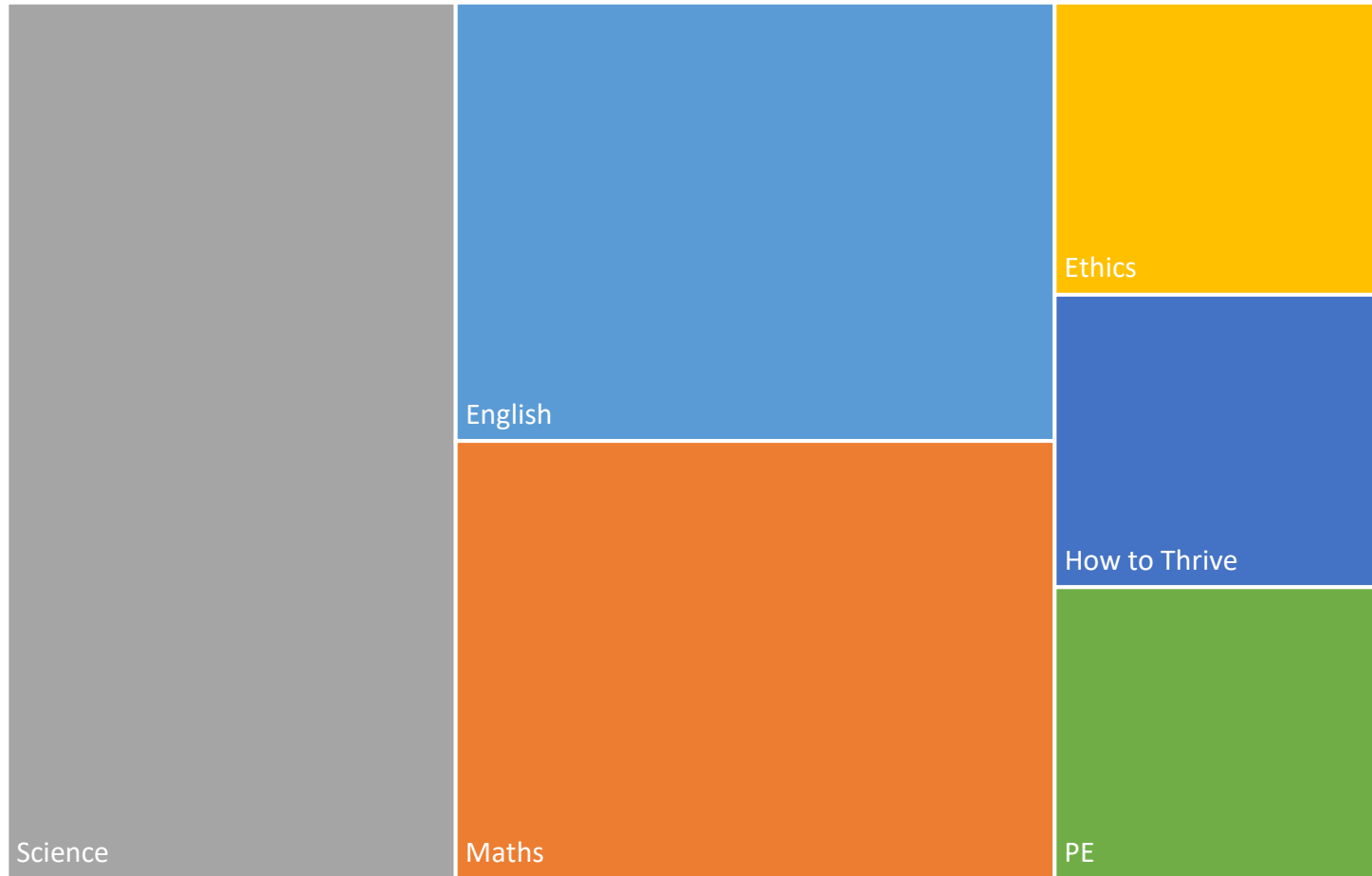
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Key Stage Four Compulsory Curriculum

■ English ■ Maths ■ Science ■ Ethics ■ How to Thrive ■ PE





All students will begin to study GCSE English Language and English Literature at the start of Year 10. All students will sit the same exams.

Year 9 will be a bridging year to ensure students are prepared for the demand of GCSE study.

The **English Language GCSE** is made up of:

- Two exams (language papers 1 and 2).
- One speaking and listening assessment.

The **English Literature GCSE** is made up of:

- Two exams (literature papers 1 and 2).



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Two papers

Each includes a reading and writing section.

Students will work on extracts of Fiction and Non-Fiction from the 19th, 20th and 21st Century.

They will then be asked to write both creatively and for a practical purpose.

Two papers

Students will study:

- A 19th Century novel
- A Shakespeare play
- An anthology of poetry
- Unseen poetry
- Modern (20th/21st century) Prose or Drama



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Maths

AQA Exam Board

All students will follow a common course in Year 9 and will then move to either Foundation or Higher tier in Year 10.

The course is “Linear” and assessed 100% by written examination at the end of the course. There are no Controlled Assessments or Coursework elements.

There are 3 exams at the end of Year 11 for both Higher and Foundation tier.

Paper 1: Non-Calculator Paper [1.5hrs]

Paper 2: Calculator Paper [1.5hrs]

Paper 3: Calculator Paper [1.5hrs]

If you aspire to be a mathematician, engineer or scientist, you can probably expect to use complex mathematical concepts in your day-to-day life. But all of us use the skills developed in Maths lessons to help solve tricky real-world or work-related problems, sometimes years down the line.



AQA exam board

Taught in Year 9, 10 and 11.

All students follow a common course in Year 9 and then move to either Combined or Separate science in year 10.

Both courses provide the opportunity to pursue Science based subjects at level 3 (A-Level or BTEC).

A good scientific understanding is useful to us all as it improves logical thinking and practical skills.

Many occupations like Chefs, Engineers and Hairdressers need a sound knowledge of Science too, not just Doctors and Research Scientists!



Separate Science

Assessed entirely by written examinations at the end of Year 11.

Students achieve 3 GCSE grades.

The exams consist of two 1 hour 45 minute papers for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students following this will sit the Higher level papers.

Combined Science

Assessed entirely by written examinations at the end of Year 11.

Students achieve 2 GCSE grades.

The exams consist of two 1 hour and 15 minute papers for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students following this will sit either Foundation or Higher level papers.



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Our view on Languages

Most students will be on Pathway A.

We expect the majority of our students to choose a language.

It has been a core part of our Key Stage 3 curriculum for most students.

Most will choose **French** as this is the language they have been studying for two years.

Spanish

- Condensed time scale (3 years, not 5)
- Only open to students who have already proven language ability/interest in years 7 and 8
- Additional lesson in year 9 (may be timetabled after school)



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Option preferences: Things to consider



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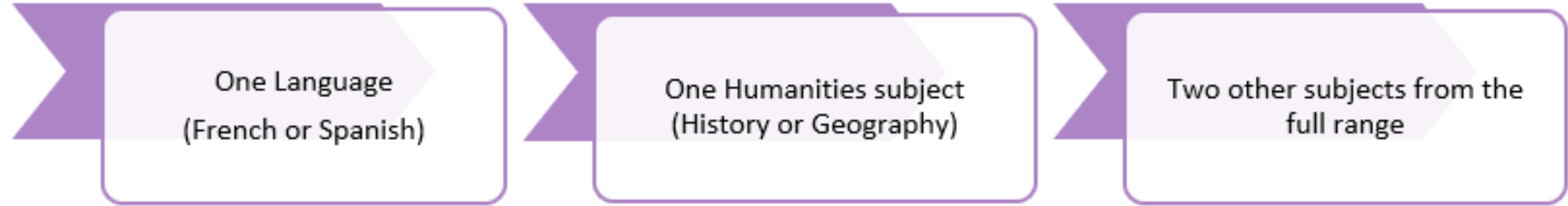
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Pathway A



Pathway B



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A balanced choice?

- At Northstowe, we believe in allowing you to experience a range of Educational opportunities.
- We will ask you to think about if your choices are balanced.
- We wanted you to keep your options open.
- We want you to show a range of skills.



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BTEC or Cambridge National Courses

- They are worth the same as GCSEs (Distinction* = 8/9)
- Give students a broader range of skills
- Coursework or Controlled Assessment element (completed prior to a final exam)
- Excellent preparation for Apprenticeships or post-16 practical courses
- Equally able to progress to 6th Form with BTECs as part of your package



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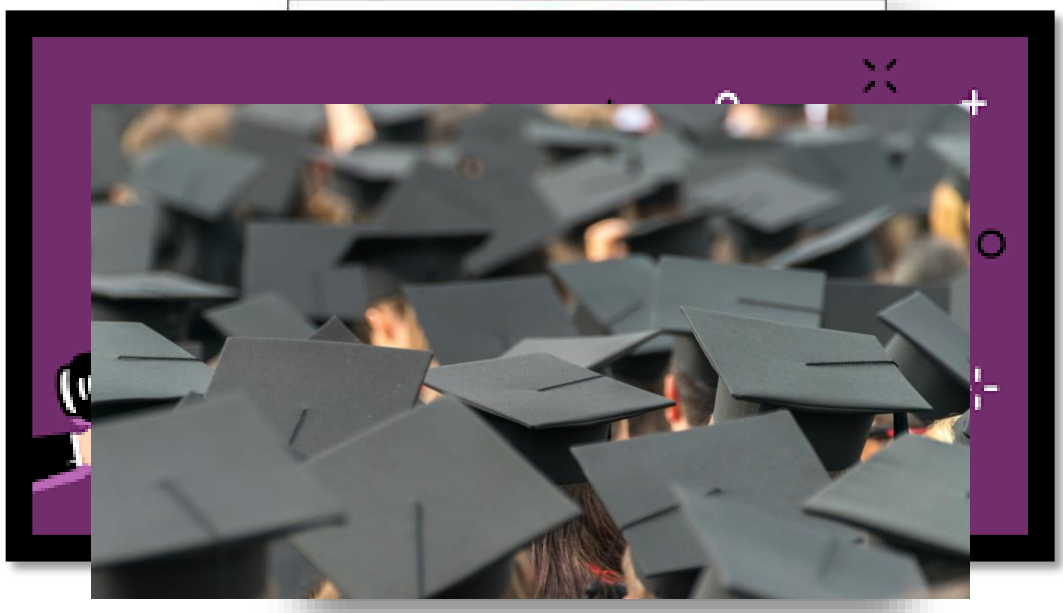
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Post 16 and career paths – myth busting



- Very few post 16 providers require you to have done a GCSE in their subject to do it at A-Level
- Very few careers are decided upon your GCSE choices

However:

- English and Maths are crucial at 4 or above
- Some ‘red brick’ or ‘Russell’ group universities may look for MFL and Humanities choices



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Making things work

We will try to accommodate all students preferences **BUT.....**

- This may not be possible – think carefully about all the subjects you choose – including reserves
- There may be the need for discussion and changes
- Make sure there is a balance of subjects and demands
- We will involve you in this process
- Learning values will have an impact where subject numbers are limited



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Help and support

- Teachers, Tutor, Parents and Siblings
- Options Booklet
- Pathway support – Ms Leaney
- Online – [Ucas.com/MyChoice16](https://ucas.com/MyChoice16)



- Think about what you are good at – think about the assessments and the topics you will study
- What do you enjoy? – you will be studying it for 3 years



Thursday 13th February: **KS4 Pathways Evening**

Friday 14th February: **Information Booklet Published**



W/B 24th February: **Pathway Support Drop-Ins and Meetings**



W/B 24th February and 3rd March: **Tutor Mentor Sessions**



Friday 28th March: **KS4 Preferences Form Opens**



W/B 3rd March: **Pathway Support Assembly and Careers, New Subjects & Languages Day**



W/B 10th March : **Year 8 Reports Sent Home**



Thursday 13th March: **Parents' Evening**



Monday 17th March: **Final Deadline for Choices Form**

What now?

- A chance to discuss possible courses with our subject leaders
- Ask our core subject team (English, Maths, Science, Ethics) any questions about the GCSE exams
- Talk to Ms Leaney our Careers Liaison and request a meeting
- Ask any questions about the Guided Pathway process to the SLT team



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Broadening offer - 2025

- Photography



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Subjects available

- History – Mr Thomas
- Geography – Ms Dunham
- Ethics – Mr Wilson
- Modern Foreign Languages - Ms Sebborn
- Design and Technology – Dr Winn
- Food and Nutrition – Dr Winn
- Sports Studies - Mr Robinson

- Music – Mr Mulholland
- Drama – Mr Skinner
- Computer Science – Mr Racotivan
- Health and Social Care – Ms Joyce
- Art – Ms Davies
- Photography – Mr Williams
- Business Studies – Mr Rasmussen
- Media Studies – Mr Deighton

