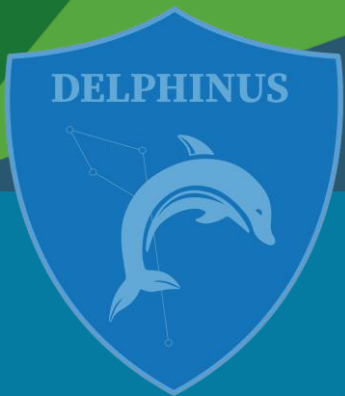




Your Future, Your Options

Year 8 Options

April 2026

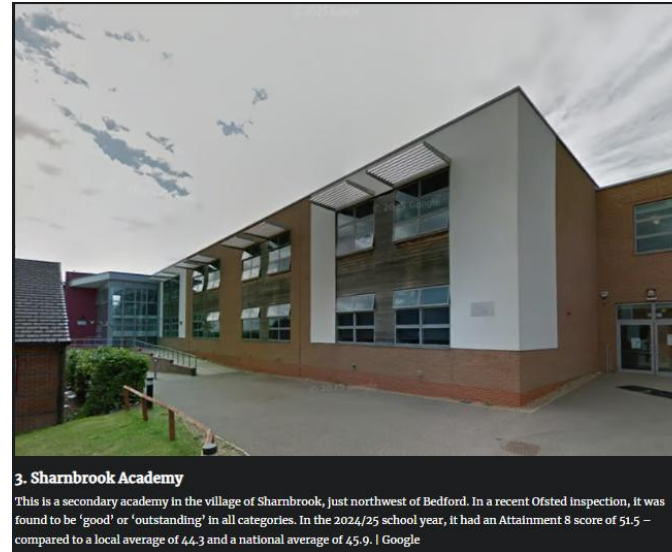


Summer 2024



Sharnbrook Academy celebrates best GCSE results since becoming a secondary school

Summer 2025



The 17 top state secondary schools across Bedfordshire for 2025 – as new GCSE performance data released

Summer 2029



Year 8 GCSE Options – What You Need To Know

- This evening is about **understanding the process**
- No one is deciding their life at 12/13 years old
- We want students to make **informed, balanced choices**

A process with lots of people involved in **supporting** your child:

- ✓ Form Tutors
- ✓ Senior Tutors and SSAs
- ✓ Careers Lead (Mrs Dunn)
- ✓ Subject Teachers
- ✓ You!



Mrs Laura Watt
Interim Vice Principal
(Academic)
lwatt@sharnbrook.academy



What Are GCSEs?

- Qualifications taken at the **end of Year 11**
- Graded **9 – 1** (or equivalent)
- Regulated by **Ofqual**
- Used for
 - ✓ Sixth Form / College entry
 - ✓ Apprenticeships and Future Study Paths

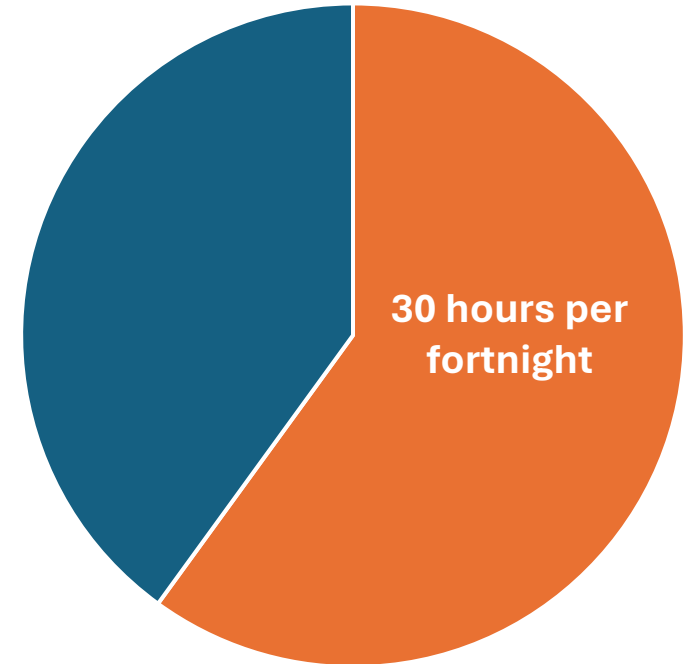
Vocational grade	D2*	D2	M2	P2	D1	M1	P1
GCSE equivalent grade	8.5	7	5	4	3	1.5	1

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	C
2	
1	
U	D
	E
	F
	G
	U



What Is Compulsory?

- English Language
 - English Literature
 - Maths
 - Science*
- Examinated courses leading to GCSE qualifications
- Core PE
 - PSHE



** two guided routes available – separate sciences and combined science – pathway discussions towards the end of Y9/start of Y10*



What Can Be Chosen?

☐ Guided Choice 1: Humanities Subject

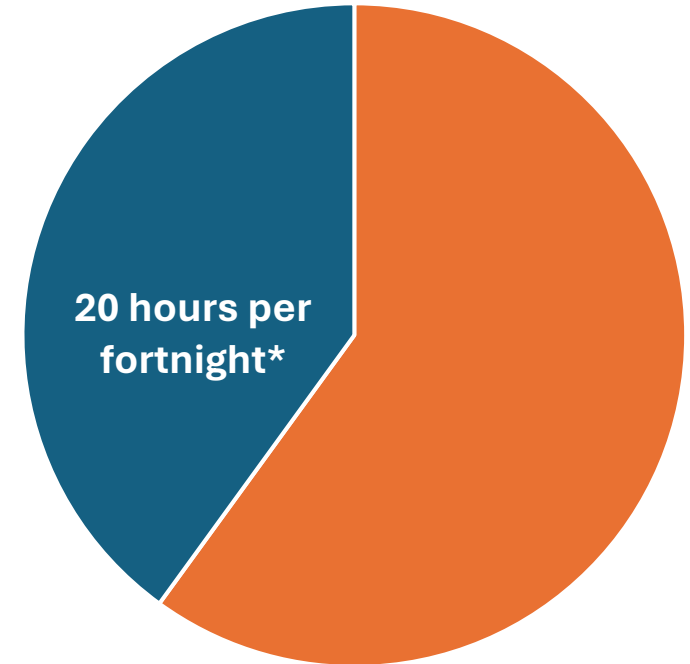
- Geography, History or Religious Studies*

☐ Guided Choice 2: Creative or Modern Foreign Language Subject

- Dance, Drama, Fine Art, Graphics, Music
- French or Spanish

☐ Free Choice 3: All Subjects

☐ Free Choice 4: All Subjects



** new allocation of hours for cohort 2028/29 – up from current allocation of 16 hours per fortnight*



What Can Be Chosen?

☐ Guided Choice 1: Humanities Subject

- Geography, History or Religious Studies

☐ Guided Choice 2: Creative or Modern Foreign Language Subject

- Dance, Drama, Fine Art, Graphics, Music
- French or Spanish

☐ Free Choice 3: All Subjects

☐ Free Choice 4: All Subjects

Additional subjects also on offer:

Business

Computer Science

Creative iMedia

Design Technology

Film Studies

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Outdoor Education

Physical Education

Sociology



Curriculum Model Rationale

- **9 GCSE (or equivalent) qualifications** achieved at the end of Year 11
- **10 GCSE (or equivalent) qualifications** achieved at the end of Year 11 for those on the triple science route
- **11 GCSE (or equivalent) qualifications** achieved at the end of Year 11 for those on triple science route and sit the additional Further Maths qualification

HOW MANY GCSEs?

MINIMUM

5-7

(WITH
CORE
SUBJECTS)

AVERAGE

8-10

MOST
STUDENTS

MAXIMUM

~12

(WITH RARE
CASES OF
13-14)



How Should Students Choose?

Encourage your child to consider:

- Do I enjoy this subject?
- Am I willing to work hard in it?
- Am I reasonably successful in it?
- Have I spoken to my teacher?

ART DESIGN FINE ART 2025	DOWNLOAD
ART DESIGN GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION 2025	DOWNLOAD
BUSINESS STUDIES 2025	DOWNLOAD
COMPUTER SCIENCE 2025	DOWNLOAD
CREATIVE IMEDIA 2025	DOWNLOAD



[Guided Choices \(Options\) 2026 – Year 8 – Sharnbrook Academy](#)



How Should Students Choose?

Encourage your child to consider:

- Do I enjoy this subject?
- Am I willing to work hard in it?
- Am I reasonably successful in it?
- Have I spoken to my teacher?

KS4 Curriculum

Art

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 9	Induction Project - Skills introduced: - Observational drawing - Using tone to show form - Skills developed: - Drawing accurately - Researching artists - Copying artwork	Ceramic Tile - Skills introduced: - Producing responses - Presenting work - Collagraph printing - Skills developed: - Chalk and charcoal - Design work - Ceramic sculpture	Art Nouveau - Skills introduced: - Detailed cutting - Photography - Laser cutting - Skills developed: - Composition and layout	Art Nouveau Continued	Architecture - Skills introduced: - One-point perspective - Two-point perspective - Mixed media techniques - Lino printing - Skills developed: - Photography - Perspective drawing	Architecture Continued - Skills introduced: - Technical painting - Colour mixing - Using acrylic paint - Skills developed: - Colour theory



The screenshot shows the Sharnbrook Academy website. The header includes the school logo, a language selector, and a search bar. The navigation menu lists: Home, About Sharnbrook, Academy Information, Year 11, Sixth Form, News and Updates, Contact Us, and Reach Out. A dropdown menu for 'Academy Information' is open, showing links to: Principal's Welcome (Ethos and Values), Senior Leadership Team, Academy Council (Governing Body), Enrichment Curriculum and PLEDGES, Hiring our Facilities, Meridian Trust, Our Curriculum, Our House System, Our Prospectus, Sharnbrook Community Sports Centre, Key Stage Three (Years 7&8), Key Stage Four (Years 9-11), Key Stage Five (Years 12-13), Homework and Personal Study, PSHE, and Remote Learning. The main content area features a 'Welcome' message and a 'Continue reading' button.

Key Stage Four (Years 9-11) – Sharnbrook Academy



The University Question

- Universities mainly care about
 - ✓ Strong Grades
 - ✓ Appropriate A Levels later
 - ✓ Academic consistency
- GCSE options taken at age 13 rarely limit higher education access
- Keeping a broad academic base is usually sensible



[Unifrog - The universal destinations platform.](#)

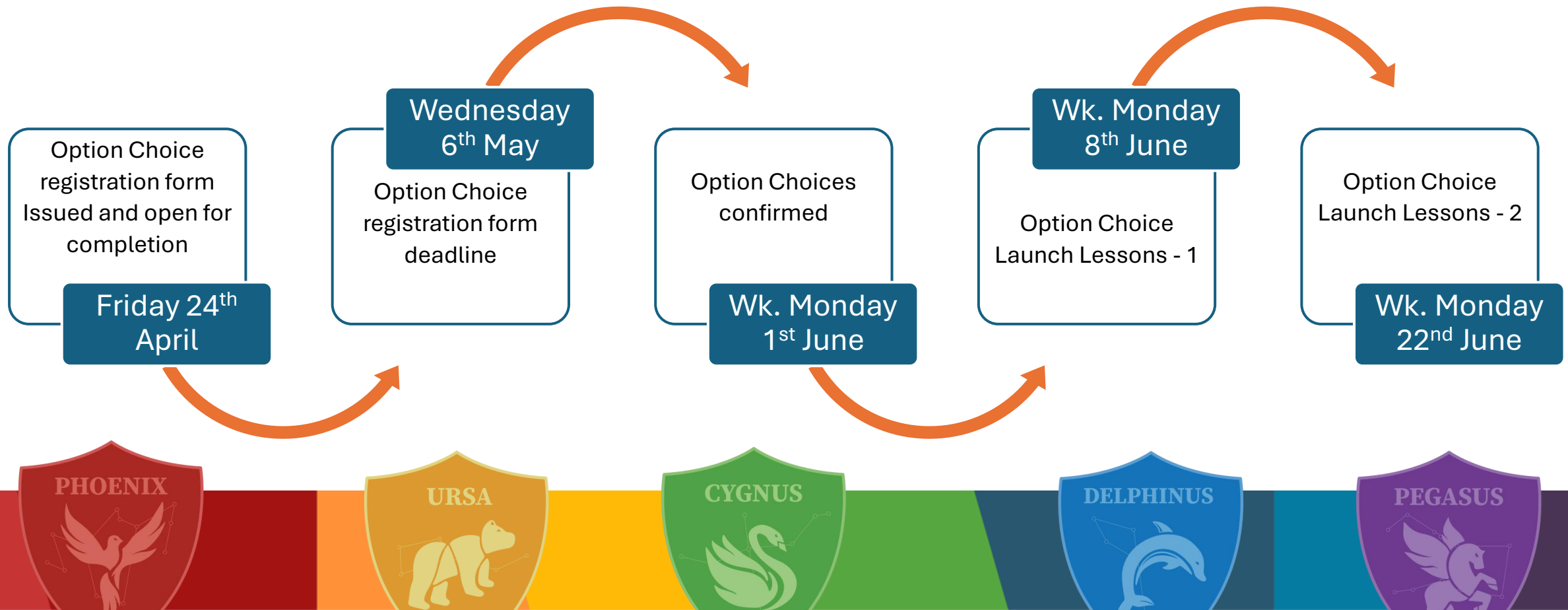


[Meridian Pathways](#)



Process and Timeline

Link to option choice registration form sent to students via email or via the 'Options' widget on both '*Student Portal*' and '*MCAS*'



Supporting Your Child

- Ask open questions
- Listen more than direct
- Encourage responsibility
- Keep perspective

