

Year 9 Options Information Evening

29th January 2026

**Mr Matt Oughton, Executive Principal &
Ms Jo Gurvidi, Senior Vice Principal**



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‘To create an outstanding school that gives every child, no matter their background, the opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives, go to university or pursue the career of their choice’.



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Key points for this evening

- How is Trumpington Community College preparing your children for the future?
- Overview of expectations in education today
- New style GCSEs
- Their GCSE courses: Core and Options
- Your role in the Options process



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How are we preparing students for the future?



"We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist . . . using technologies that haven't yet been invented . . . in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet."

RICHARD RILEY

- Many of today's most in-demand jobs didn't exist 10 years ago.
- Some researchers predict that 65% of students today will hold jobs that don't yet exist.



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How are we preparing students for the future?

At Trumpington Community College, our aim is to provide a **high-quality curriculum** which bring out the best in our students and prepares them for success in life.

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Provide children with the core knowledge they need for success in education and later life
- To maximise their cognitive development
- To develop the whole person and talents of the individual
- To allow all children to become active and economically self-sufficient citizens.



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How are we preparing students for the future?

- By teaching our curriculum well, we develop pupils' cultural capital
 - *“the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.”* (DFE National Curriculum, 2014)
- At Trumpington Community College, students will:
 - Experience a broad, deep and knowledge rich curriculum
 - Be literate and numerate, have high expectations for their achievement and build their character
 - Develop their cultural, social, moral, mental and physical development
 - forge secure foundations for progression



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Expectations of Education today

- Your child must remain in Education or Training until they are 18.
- The government believes that adults will be 22/23 years old when before they embark upon a career.
- As adults, your children will probably change career 2-3 times during their adult lives and have 10-14 jobs by the age of 38.
- They will work to the age of 70+ before retirement.
- The days of a lifelong career with a single company or within one industry have gone.



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GCSEs from 2015

- Courses are more rigorous
- There is more content
- Few courses contain tiers (higher/foundation)
- All GCSEs are linear courses with final exams.
- Few subjects have coursework (only the Arts, DT, Food, Sports Studies)
- Little chance to resit
 - Except a requirement to re-sit English Language and Maths in post-16 college if a 4 is not achieved.



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GCSE Grading System

New grading for GCSEs

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

PA graphic. Source: Ofqual

'Strong' Pass
= 5

'Standard'
Pass = 4



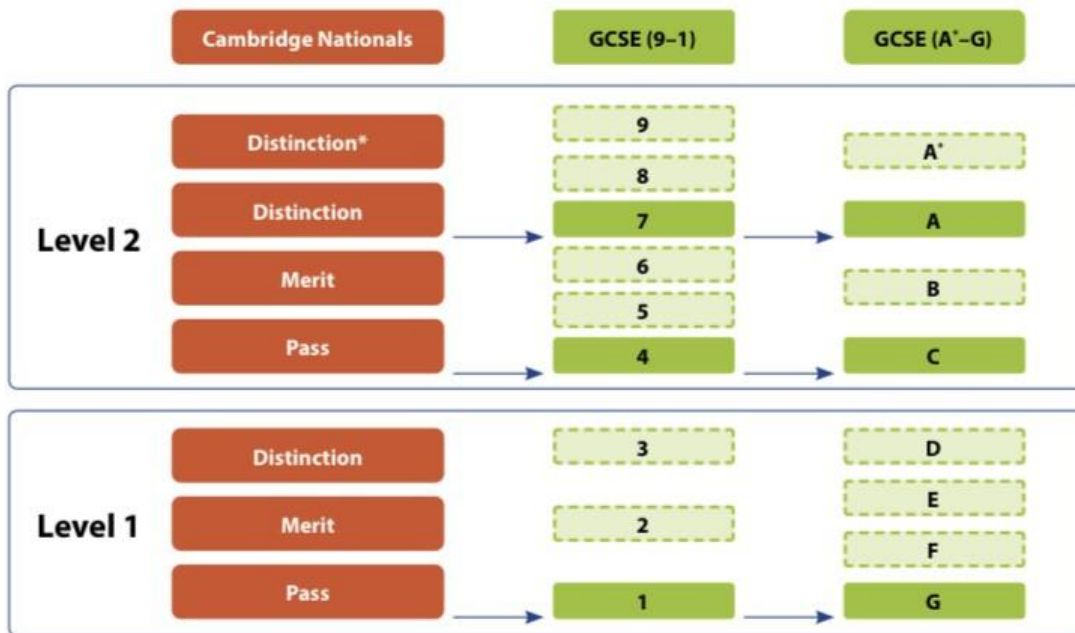
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GCSEs & CNAT qualifications

Offer 1 'Cambridge & Technical Qualifications
Not GCSEs
Sports Studies



Grades for Cambridge Nationals and for GCSEs align at key points.

Level 1 covers GCSE grades 3–1 (or D–G) and Level 2 GCSE grades 9–4 (or A*–C).

- The bottom of a Level 1 Pass is aligned to GCSE grade 1
- The bottom of a Level 2 Pass is aligned to GCSE grade 4
- The bottom of a Level 2 Distinction is aligned to grade 7



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What is EBacc?

- The EBacc (English Baccalaureate) is the basis of the National Curriculum, and our curriculum.
- These subjects represent an ambitious curriculum for all students. We structure our KS4 around these, to ensure that all students have the qualifications to succeed.
 - English Literature and Language
 - Maths
 - two science GCSEs
 - a language
 - and a humanity (History or Geography)



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What do we offer?



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GCSE courses at Trumpington Community College

Your child will study the core:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Science (Combined, 2 GCSEs, or Separate, 3 GCSEs)
- GCSE French
- Core PE
- Core Religious Studies
- Core PSHE
- ***Plus 3 option courses...***



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GCSE Options

- Choice: Triple or Combined Science*
- Option 1: History or Geography
- Option 2 and 3: **Two** courses from the list below (pick four options, 2 as back up choices)
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Art
- GCSE Design Technology
- CNAT Sport Studies
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition



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Be aware

The Options form will ask students to select 4 courses from the options list, in order of preference

- If a course is oversubscribed, selections will be made on the basis of meeting the options deadline, good attendance, good behaviour.
- It is not a 'first come, first served' approach – all submissions are considered equally if the deadline is met. If the deadline is missed, your preferences will be considered last.
- If a course has too few students to run, the back-up choices will help us place each student.
- Conversations will be had with any students for whom this is the case, or where there are other queries.



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Meeting individual needs

- Combined or Triple Science
- Additional Maths
- A bespoke programme with guided choices for some students for whom full programme of GCSEs is not suitable.
- Home Language GCSEs
- Happy to discuss our provision and options for particular students.



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Completing the form

- When choices have been made, you'll need to complete the online form that will be sent to you tomorrow. Booklets have been given to students.
- Students will be given their Guidance Meeting appointment time with Senior Leaders; Pastoral staff over the next couple of weeks.
- The deadline for completion is **midday, Friday 6th March 2026**
- It is not 'first come, first served', but if the deadline is missed, you will be 'last served'.



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Family role in decision making

- Your role as parents/carers
 - Support and encourage discussion about this choice
 - Guidance – who to talk to
 - Be informed – understand the process and implications
 - Work with us
 - Attend Progress Consultation Evening and talk to teachers
 - Ensure online form is completed by the deadline (midday, 6th March 2026)



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What should influence choices?

Useful influences

- What subjects do they enjoy?
- Do they have particular talents and skills in an area?
- Do they have ideas about what their career path may look like?
- Are their subject choices balanced?
- Are you/their teachers making particular recommendations for them?
- What do their teachers say?
(Progress Consultation Evening, 12th Feb)
- Tutor/teachers, Mr Wilks, Ms Gurvidi, families, Options Booklet, presentations information.

Less helpful influences

- Because their friends are picking it
- Because they like the teacher
- Because they think it is easy (none are)



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Contact details

If you have any questions, please email Mr Dominic Wilks (Head of Year 9) or your child's tutor.

Year 9 Team email addresses:

- dominic.wilks@trumpingtoncc.org.uk
- karina.quigley@trumpingtoncc.org.uk
- amy.logan@trumpingtoncc.org.uk
- lara.welch@trumpingtoncc.org.uk
- sara.rosales@trumpingtoncc.org.uk



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Options Schedule from now

- Year 9 Options Information Evening – 29.1.26
- Presentations, booklet and online form sent out – 30.1.26
- Guidance Meetings with staff, before 13.2.26
- Year 9 Progress Consultation Evening – 12.2.26
- Options Form Deadline – 6.3.26
 - Don't make a choice straight away, there is plenty of time until this point.
 - Ask teachers/Mr Wilks/Ms Gurvidi if they have any questions.
- Options are confirmed – by end of June 2026



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FAQs

■ What if a course is oversubscribed?

- It depends by how many students. If we are able to run two classes, we will do so.

■ What if a course is undersubscribed?

- We aim to run all the courses we can, and therefore we have no firm number for how small a class may be. We accept that we have teachers for all the subjects, that they are important and that we are a small school. Whether a course runs or not can alter depending on the interests of the year group, eg. there is no music class in Year 11, but there is one in Year 10.



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How to make your choices

- a. [Click here to take you to the Options Selection Form or](#)
- b. Scan the QR code here:

Year 9 Options Choices, for
September 2026



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