

Year 9 Options Information Evening 2026

Delivering learning for life within an aspirational culture

Respect Responsibility Excellence

Address from Mrs K Clennett (Assistant Headteacher)

Delivering learning for life within an aspirational culture

Respect Responsibility Excellence

MAIN TALK

Mr Phillips – Head of Year

Mrs Campbell – Head of Science

Mr Ros – Head of Languages



Arthur Mellows Village College

CLASSROOM CAROUSEL

Delivering learning for life within an aspirational culture

Respect Responsibility Excellence

Our aims this evening:

- Gain insight into what your child can study in Year 10 and Year 11 (Key Stage 4)
- Get more information from Subject Specialists
- Learn about the 'Options' process
- Answer questions you might have



What support has your child had / will they have?

- Options Booklet
- Year 10 Subject Reps
- Support from our Inclusion Department
- 1:1 with form tutors
- Support from our Vocational Support Assistant
- Year 10 Induction Day 2026 (Friday 23 January)
- This evening



All students study

Lessons per fortnight:

- 11 English (2 GCSEs for most: Language and Literature)
- 11 Maths
- 10 Science (2 GCSEs for most: Combined Science)

Non-examined lessons:

- 3 Core PE
- 1 Life Skills

The Options

Students then choose from 2 Options Blocks (A & B):

- 1 x Option Block A (+ reserve)
- 3 x Block B (+ reserve)

Please note: choices for Option Block B should be in order of preference

Some useful information

- Students must not choose the same subject more than once
- Students must not pick the same reserve in Option Block A and Option Block B

EBACC: to achieve the English Baccalaureate, students must choose Spanish or French in Option Block A and History or Geography in Option Block B

English Baccalaureate

GCSEs in the following subjects:

- English (Language and Literature)
- Mathematics
- 2 x Sciences
- Modern Foreign Language
- History or Geography

Option Block A

Computer Science - GCSE

French - GCSE

Geography - GCSE

History - GCSE

Single Science - GCSE

(Biology/Chemistry/Physics)

Spanish - GCSE

Option Block B

Art - GCSE	Food Preparation and Nutrition - GCSE
Art Textiles - GCSE	Geography - GCSE
Business Studies - GCSE	Health and Social Care - Vocational
Citizenship Studies - GCSE	History - GCSE
Computer Science - GCSE	IT - Vocational
Creative Media - BTEC Level 1 and 2	Music - Vocational
Design Technology - GCSE	Physical Education - GCSE
Drama - GCSE	RE - GCSE
Economics - GCSE	Single Science - GCSE
Engineering Manufacture - Vocational	Sport - BTEC Award
Film Studies - GCSE	Travel and Tourism - Vocational

Year 9 Options Form

- The Options Form will be sent to you electronically this week
- Use the information from this evening, the booklet, your child's experience and subject teachers to help
- We will do our very best to make sure your child gets their first choices
- Please make note of your choices when completed for your records
- Please make sure you complete and submit the form by **Friday 6 February 2026**

The Options Form

1. Student **SURNAME** *

Enter your answer

2. Student **FORENAME** *

Enter your answer

The Options Form

Option Block A

You must choose one first choice subject and one reserve from Option Block A.

You must not select a subject more than once across all Option Blocks. You must not pick the same reserve in Option Block A and Option Block B.

You must select French or Spanish in Option Block A if you wish to follow English Baccalaureate.

The Options Form

3. Student Form Group *

- 9AJO
- 9AMC/KBB
- 9AMI/KBR
- 9CCT
- 9CMU
- 9CPH

The Options Form

4. FIRST Choice from Option Block A *

- Computer Science - GCSE
- French - GCSE
- Geography - GCSE
- History - GCSE
- Single Science (Physics/Biology/Chemistry) - GCSE
- Spanish - GCSE

The Options Form

5. RESERVE Choice from Option Block A *

- Computer Science - GCSE
- French - GCSE
- Geography - GCSE
- History - GCSE
- Single Science (Physics/Biology/Chemistry) - GCSE
- Spanish - GCSE

The Options Form

Option Block B

You must make three choices in rank order from Option Block B, plus a reserve

You must not select a subject more than once across all Option Blocks. You must not pick the same reserve in Option Block A and Option Block B. The order that you select the subjects in must be based on your preference. Your first choice is your most preferred subject you wish to study.

Remember

- select History or Geography if you wish to work towards the English Baccalaureate
- you can not study both Art **and** Art Textiles GCSE

The Options Form

6. FIRST Choice Option Block B *

- Art - GCSE
- Art Textiles - GCSE
- Business - GCSE
-

The Options Form

Confirming Choices

10. Of your reserve choices for Option Blocks A and B, which subject would be your first preference? *

Enter your answer

SCIENCE

Route A

Year 9/10

**Combined Science
(Double Award)**

Year 11

Combined Science

Route B

Year 9/10

Single Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics

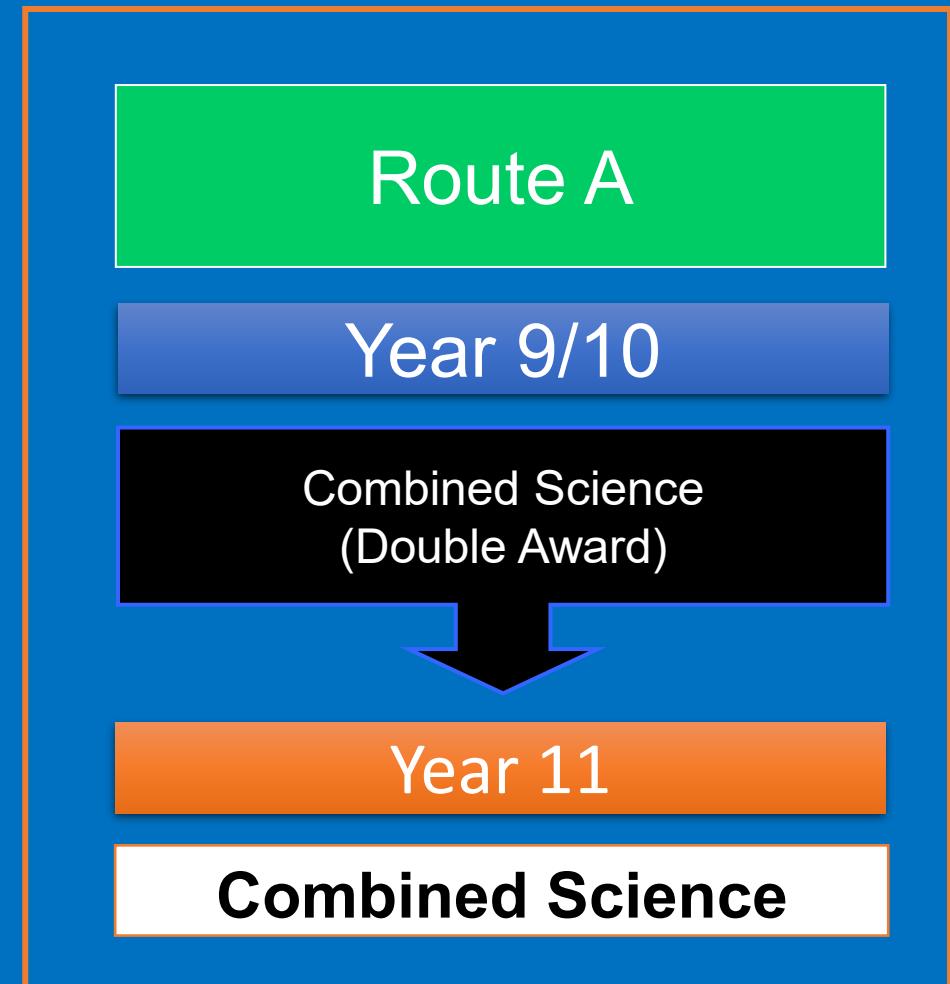
Year 11

Single Science

Route A: Combined Science

- All students (unless doing Single Science)
- 100% Exam (7.5 hours, 6 exams of 1 hr 15 mins each)
- No Controlled Assessment
- 16 Practicals to complete
- 15% Practical based questions in the exam
- 20% Maths assessment in the exam

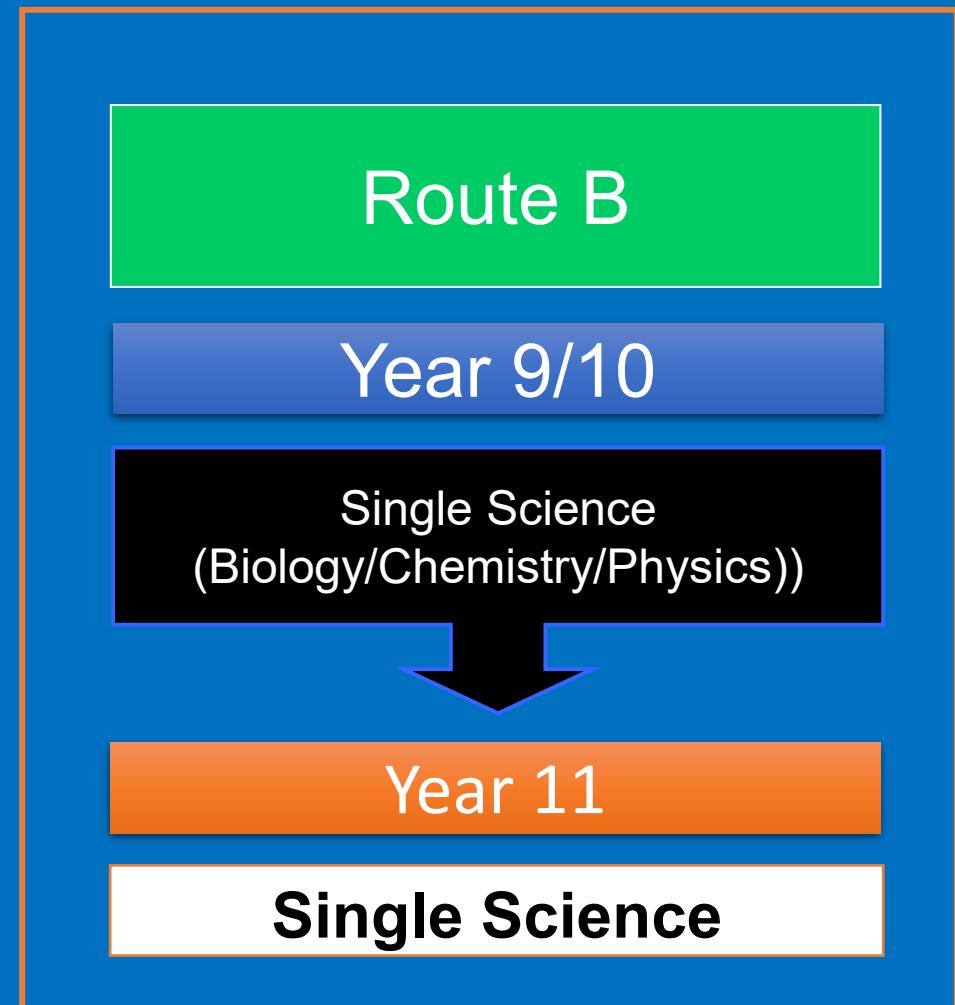
Two GCSEs - Grades 1 - 9



Route B: Single Science

(Formerly Triple Science)

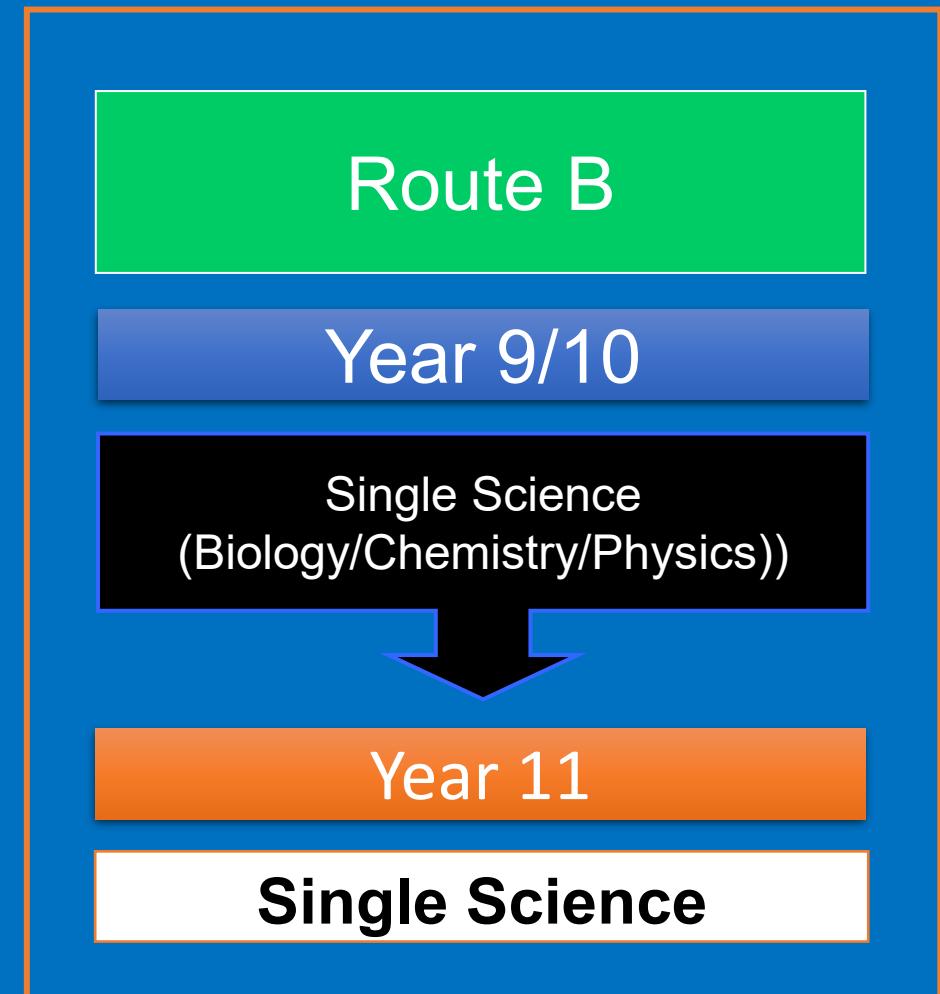
- Useful (not essential) for students who may look to study A Levels in Science
- Requirements - students should ideally be achieving a Grade 4, but we will consider students achieving a Grade 3 should there be places on the course. Students should also have a high level of Literacy and Numeracy understanding.
- Study Combined Science plus extended content and concepts
- 100% Exam for each Science subject (10.5 hours: 2 exams for each subject = 6 total, 1 hr 45 mins each)



Route B: Single Science

(Formerly Triple Science)

- No Controlled Assessment
- 24 Practicals to complete (8 for each Science subject)
- 15% Practical based questions in each exam
- Maths assessment: Biology 10%, Chemistry 20%, Physics 30%
- Three GCSEs graded 1-9 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics



What next?

- If your child doesn't want to choose Single Science then you don't need to do anything
- If your child wants to choose Single Science then choose it in Option Block A or B
- Students should speak to their Science teacher about their suitability for Single Science / you can discuss this at Parents' Evening



LANGUAGES

**EVERYBODY SPEAKS
ENGLISH**



**Why do I need to
learn
languages?**

Age of AI

What are the advantages of learning languages for English speakers in the age of AI? Do they still need to learn a foreign language?

1. AI has changed how languages are useful, not whether they are

- AI is excellent at: translating text and speech, helping with vocabulary and grammar, supporting basic conversations.
- AI is weak at: cultural nuance and subtext, trust-building, real-time social judgement and domain-specific or sensitive communication.

2. Cognitive advantages still matter (and AI can't replace them)

AI doesn't give you the cognitive gains-you only get them by learning

- Attention, working memory, mental flexibility, decoding

3. Cultural literacy beats raw translation

- Values, Social hierarchy, Politeness norms, Worldviews

AI can translate words but understanding people requires cultural literacy

4. Trust and credibility favour human speakers

- Language builds trust faster, signals respect and effort, reduces power imbalance, opens informal or "off-record" communication.

This matters especially in: Diplomacy, Business negotiations, Research, Healthcare, Social services, Creative collaboration

5. Professional advantages are becoming more selective, not obsolete

For English speakers, language learning is now less about survival and more about differentiation.

6. Creative and emotional depth can't be outsourced

Other benefits:

1. Potential to earn more money

- Bilingual professionals can earn **up to 15% more** (**Economist, 2023**).
- 70% of companies value Language skills (**British Council**)

2. Study and/or work abroad

- **International research and collaboration** (**British Council**)
- **Russell Group universities** value a language GCSE, it makes applications stronger.
- **Top companies like Google, Microsoft, HSBC, and the BBC** actively seek multilingual employees.
- The **British Council (Languages for the Future, 2022)** confirms that Spanish and French are among the most in-demand languages for UK businesses.
- **Global companies like Jaguar Land Rover, PwC, Sanako and Dyson** prefer bilingual candidate.
- **Football industry**

‘... a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures.’
(DfE)

Vocational Subjects

Vocational Subjects

All equivalent to 1 x GCSE and respected by both employers and universities

Creative Media

Engineering Manufacture

Health and Social Care

IT

Music

Sport

Travel and Tourism



How are Vocational Subjects different?

- Assignment and exam-based units (typically 60% / 40%)
- High level of literacy skills needed for the work and assignments
- Assignments are assessed during Years 10 and 11
- 'Exam' January or May / June Year 11
- Teacher feedback on assignments
- Opportunity for resubmission of assignments



Good Reasons to Choose a Subject

- Interested in and enjoy the subject
- Good at the subject
- It will be useful for post-16 or post-18 studies
- It's assessed in a way that suits the young person



Bad Reasons to Choose a Subject

- Friends are doing it
- It's 'easy'
- They like / don't like the teacher
- It's all exam so they can do nothing until the end of the 2 years



Further Help and Advice

- Careers Advisor (Mrs Clarke)
- Parents' Evening
- Subject Teachers



Key Dates

- **Monday 19 January 2026 - Year 9 Options Information Evening**
- **Monday 19 January-Friday 23 January 2026 - Options Week**
- **Friday 23 January 2026 - Year 10 Induction Day (lessons 1-4)**
- **Monday 2 February 2026 - Online Year 9 Parents' Evening**
- **Friday 6 February 2026 - deadline for online Options Form to be completed and submitted**
- **July 2026 - options confirmed to student**

If you have a Q