



Year 9 Transition 2026

The information in this document outlines the Year 9 Transition Process for 2026.

This includes:

- 1) General Information**
- 2) Timeline & Process**
- 3) Key Stage 4 Curriculum**
- 4) Frequently asked Questions**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Our Commitment to Inclusivity

At Oaks Park High School, our curriculum is grounded in our motto, 'Learning Together, Achieving Together,' fostering a culture of unity where every student is empowered to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

We are committed to delivering an inclusive and ambitious curriculum that reflects the diversity of our community. Teaching is carefully adapted to meet the needs of all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), ensuring every student can access and succeed in a rich curriculum.

Our curriculum is well-sequenced and knowledge-rich, allowing students the time and support needed to master key concepts and flourish, regardless of background.

The following events have been planned to ensure all students and parents have been provided with the appropriate advice and guidance so that students can make well informed decisions when selecting courses.

Triple Science for All

We are proud to offer all students the opportunity to pursue Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) at GCSE. We believe that access to Triple Science is a matter of educational equity, as it ensures students are not held back by restricted opportunities when pursuing future scientific careers. Students who follow the Triple Science pathway are significantly more likely to progress to STEM-related A Levels and degrees, which are linked to higher lifetime earnings and are vital for the modern economy. By providing this as a core part of our offer, we ensure that our students have the strongest possible foundation for understanding the complex technological and environmental challenges of the world

Promoting Academic Breadth

For the majority of students, we strongly promote the continued study of History, Geography, Religious Studies and a modern foreign language (French or Spanish). We believe these disciplines build a strong and broad curriculum that avoids narrowing choices too early. Academic Breadth ensures that students maintain high standards and secure the powerful knowledge required to compete for places at top universities and apprenticeships and thrive in a rapidly changing job market. While we ensure the curriculum remains flexible to meet individual aspirations, the majority of our students opt for a combination of these

subjects because it provides a rigorous academic foundation that keeps doors open for a wide variety of prestigious future pathways

2. TIMELINE & PROCESS

Date	Event	Aim
4th March 2026	Careers Fair	Advice and guidance to enable students to consider future career options
5th March 2026	Yr 8 Parents' evening	An opportunity to discuss student progress and suitability for courses.
12th March 2026	GCSE Options Launch Assembly	Overview of process shared with students
March 2026	PSHE lessons	A range of specialised activities conducted, dedicated to ensuring the students understand the process and make appropriate KS4 choices and get students thinking about the options process to come.
16th April 2026	Yr 8 Transition Support Evening	Optional event to provide parents and students any further information and answer any questions.
17th April 2026	Applications open	Personalised suite of choices for each student provided. Special assembly to provide guidance on how to complete the form.
23rd April 2026	Applications deadline	All forms with first and reserve choices must be completed online.
July 2026	Outcome email	An email will be sent with the outcome of the options process.

At Key Stage 4, students continue to study a broad and rigorous curriculum. Our core offer for all students includes English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics), as these provide the essential skills and powerful knowledge required for future success. Alongside these, PE and PSHE remain vital components of every student's timetable.

In addition to the core, students select three optional subjects chosen with close consideration of their personal interests and future career aspirations. We strongly promote a pathway of "Academic Breadth," encouraging students to maintain a wide curriculum that avoids narrowing their future choices too early.

As part of this commitment to a well-rounded education, we encourage students to pursue disciplines that foster a deep understanding of society and culture. This includes Religious Studies, which we value for its essential role in a student's intellectual, spiritual, moral, and social development. Students are further encouraged to complement this with a humanities subject (History or Geography) and a modern foreign language (French or Spanish), ensuring

they develop the critical thinking and communication skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Year 9 serves as a vital transition year, bridging the gap to Key Stage 4 by building upon a secure foundation of disciplinary skills. To foster a genuine thirst for knowledge, we provide a comprehensive Super Curriculum. This enrichment entitlement encourages students to develop interests beyond the classroom.

Students spend the Autumn term completing The First Give programme which teaches students about charities, social issues, and giving. Students research causes, work in teams, and present to win funding for a charity they support. During the Spring and Summer Term students are able to select from a variety of activities and follow a bespoke programme for a period of 6 weeks. This enables the students to explore a range of their interests during the year. Activities include Mandarin Chinese Club, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and Digital Literacy to name a few. In addition there are a range of guest speakers and trips to the theatre and activity centres included in the programme. Students will be able to select the activities they wish to take part in at the start of Year 9.

Students will receive a link to an online form via their school email address on **Friday 17th April 2026**. Through this link a personalised suite of choices are available from which they can select. They will be able to select three option choices to study, and three reserve choices.

Students will have 9 GCSEs, including triple science. A small number of students will study fewer and are supported with extra Literacy and Life Skills and the opportunity to complete AQA Unit Awards. Some students will complete entry level certificates in place of or in addition to GCSE examinations. In Year 9 all students will have the opportunity to participate in a broad range of extracurricular opportunities. In Year 10 and 11 students will have increased learning hours within their timetable for core and options subjects.

Please be aware that not all subject combinations will be possible and some courses may not run if there is insufficient take up. Therefore reserve option choices will be used if this arises. Whilst we aim to offer students their choice of courses this is not always possible.

3. KS4 CURRICULUM

An overview of our KS4 Curriculum is shown below:

Core Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Option Subjects

- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Creative iMedia (Cambridge Nationals-OCR)
- Drama
- French
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- History
- Information Technology (Cambridge Nationals-OCR)
- Music
- BTEC Sport
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish

Non Examined Courses

- Applied Life Studies (available as an option where suitable)
- Literacy (available as an option where suitable)
- PSHE (inc Citizenship)
- Physical Education
- Super Curriculum Activities

More information on these courses can be accessed [here](#).

Please note that some subjects such as Business, Computer Science and IT are particularly popular. We have a limited capacity for these courses and can only offer a small number of classes. Therefore, there is a significant chance that your child will not be given this option even if it is their first choice subject. Please be aware that students can still apply and study these courses at A Level without completing a GCSE.

4. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Question: How can I decide which subjects to choose? I don't know where to start!

Answer: Start by asking yourself these questions: Which subjects am I most interested in? Which ones am I best at? Are there any new subjects I'd like to take up?

Choosing subjects to study for KS4 is perhaps the most important life decision your child has had to make so far. Ms Choudhury and the Year 8 tutor team will be providing a lot of support through a number of programmes and advice sessions.

Question: I know what kind of career I want. Which will be the best subjects to study for it?

Answer: Have a chat with our Careers team. They can help you make the right subject choices. They will be able to give you independent and impartial Careers Advice and Guidance. An appointment can be arranged by emailing Ms R Wilson (rwilson@oakspark.redbirdge.sch.uk).

Question: But what if I change my mind in a year or so about what career to do?

Answer: Well ... you might! A lot of people your age do. You can't be sure how you will change as a person over the next few years. You may find new things which interest you or develop new skills. And, you can't be sure how technology and the working world will change and exactly what job opportunities there will be when you are older and are going for a job. That's why it is a good idea not to specialise too early. A balanced choice of subjects is the best bet as it is likely to leave doors to lots of different careers open.

Question: My problem is that I've got no idea of what I want to do when I leave school. Does this matter?

Answer: No. It's a good idea to start thinking about what you may be interested in now but you don't have to make any definite plans. Go for subjects you are interested in and are good at. Try to keep your future choices open by choosing a range of subjects. Avoid too many similar subjects.

Question: I don't think that I'll start a job at the end of Year 11. I'll probably stay on in the sixth form and then go on to college or university. What options should I choose now?

Answer: Even if you think you know what you want to study at university, remember that colleges and universities expect you to have a good general education at Key Stage 4. If you follow your interests and abilities but keep a balance, you should be OK. If you're still worried, see your Pastoral Leader or Form Tutor.

Question: Can I change my mind after the deadline?

Answer: No. You will not be able to change your mind as the options are timetabled based on the choices received on 26th April 2026. We are **unable to offer changes** to options. All students will receive options from their first and reserve choices only. Therefore it is important these choices are well considered, as they will not be amended following allocation.

Question: Some subjects are compulsory for me - can I change this?

Answer: Our curriculum is designed to be inclusive and aspirational. To achieve this, we provide a personalised suite of choices based on each student's individual needs.

Certain subjects are compulsory because they form the foundation of academic breadth. This core includes English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics). To maintain a strong and broad curriculum, we also promote the continued study of humanities (History or Geography), modern foreign languages, and Religious Studies. We value Religious Studies for its essential role in your intellectual, spiritual, and social development, helping you become a well-rounded and informed member of society.

By maintaining this academic breadth, we ensure you do not narrow your future choices too early and remain competitive for prestigious post-16 pathways and universities. What is compulsory for you is shown on your online form and is selected to provide you with the strongest possible foundation for your future; therefore, it cannot be amended.

Dos and Don'ts

- Do choose subjects that you are interested in, do well at and enjoy.
- Do choose a range of subjects so that you keep your choices open for the future.
- Do research what your preferred career path requires in terms of subject choices.
- Do consider the hard and soft skills that your subject choices could provide you with and how these may help for the future.
- Don't choose a subject because your friends have. This is a very easy mistake to make. If you are hoping to be in the same group as them, you probably won't because most option subjects have more than one group. Anyway, we are all different so choose for yourself, not for someone else.
- Don't choose a subject because you like a particular teacher. You may not get the same teacher next year.
- Don't link all your option choices to a single career or interest. You might change your mind later on. You need your choices to be balanced so you are open to a variety of career opportunities.
- Don't panic! If you don't know what you want to do when you leave school. The important things are to follow the advice you have been given and then do as well as you can in all of your studies.

Contacts:

Should you have any further questions or queries please email

admin@oakspark.redbridge.sch.uk