

# Wyvern Academy

## Year 9 Options 2025

Options Booklet



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Academies  
*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

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# Wyvern Academy

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

Dear Student,

Welcome to our Year 9 options guide. The information found here will help you make important choices around the subjects you study in the next stage of your educational journey. It is very important that you make an informed choice focussing on what you will need to study for the post-16 destination and course that you choose in Year 11. As a Professional Learner, your ability to make independent choices based on information given is a key skill - this needs to be used very carefully during this process.

In Years 10 and 11 you will study four compulsory GCSE subjects; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Combined Science together with Core Physical Education (PE) and Personal Development. **You will also study three subjects, each equivalent to one GCSE, which you choose from those on offer through the options process at Wyvern Academy.**

When you choose your option subjects make sure that you make an informed choice by reading the subject information in this booklet and speaking to the subject teachers during our Options Evening on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Using this information choose subjects which interest you most. The more a subject interests you the more engaged you will be with it. The more you are engaged with a subject, the more likely you are to achieve well and make good progress. Do not choose option subjects based on the teacher, as this may change, nor based on what your friends are choosing. **This is your choice for your future.**

**Please note that the option choices you make are not guaranteed.** Whilst there are sixteen option subjects on offer, these may not run from September 2025 if there are not sufficient pupils choosing them. The option subjects selected by pupils also determine how the subjects can be grouped together on the timetable. As a result some option subject combinations will not be possible when timetabling begins. You are therefore asked not only to choose your three preferred option subjects, through steps one and two on the 'Option Choice Sheet', but to indicate two reserve subjects to help us to provide you with the options which fit closest to your wishes.

Your completed *Option Choice Sheet* should be submitted to the Main Office by **no later than 11:00am on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025**. If you have any questions or queries about our options process, please contact [wva.enquiries@consilium-at.com](mailto:wva.enquiries@consilium-at.com) or speak to your Form Tutor; Head of Y9, Mr Craggs or our Careers Advisor, Miss Longstaff.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J. Willis  
Assistant Headteacher (Quality of Education)

Headteacher: Mr P Seed • [Eqgleston View, Darlington, DL3 9SH](https://www.wyvernacademy.org) • Tel: 01325 351 377 • [www.wyvernacademy.org](http://www.wyvernacademy.org)



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# Key Information

## Dates and Contacts

### Week Commencing 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025

- Options guidance meetings with Miss Longstaff commence

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

- Year 9 Parents' Evening (16:00 – 18:30)
- Key Stage Four taster lessons to commence in all curriculum areas

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

- Year 9 Options Evening (16:00 – 18:00)
- Parent/carer presentations to take place in the Main Hall at 4pm and 5pm

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

- Deadline for returning forms to the Main Office

### Useful Contacts

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [wva.enquiries@consilium-at.com](mailto:wva.enquiries@consilium-at.com) in the first instance. Your enquiry will be signposted to one of the members of staff below.

- **Mr J Craggs**, Head of Year, can support both students and parents through the options process. He will be available to speak with students if they are struggling to make decisions and can signpost students, parents and carers to additional support where necessary.
- **Form Tutors** are very well placed to offer parental support with the option process, in addition to discussing routes available with individual students.
- **Miss J. Longstaff** is our designated careers lead and can be contacted by students or parents to discuss options, pathways and career opportunities.
- **Mr J. Willis**, Assistant Headteacher, is responsible for leading the options process and can be contacted to offer further support where necessary.



# Options Blocks

2025

The National Curriculum requires that all students study a core curriculum including the subjects below:

English Language - GCSE

English Literature - GCSE

Mathematics - GCSE

Science – Combined - GCSE

Physical Education – No Exam

Personal Development – No Exam

**OPTION 1:** Students should select **ONE** subject from the list below:

Geography - GCSE

History - GCSE

Spanish - GCSE

**OPTION 2:** Students should select **TWO** subjects from the list below:

Art and Design – Fine art - GCSE

Art and Design – Photography - GCSE

Citizenship - GCSE

Computer Science - GCSE

Film Studies - GCSE

Geography - GCSE

History - GCSE

Music - GCSE

Religious Studies - GCSE

Spanish - GCSE

Triple Science - GCSE

Digital Information Technology – Vocational

Engineering Design – Vocational

Health and Social care – Vocational

Hospitality and Catering – Vocational

Sports Studies – Vocational

Travel and Tourism – Vocational



# The English Baccalaureate

## Guidance Information

You might have heard of the EBacc (English Baccalaureate) but are unsure of which subjects are included and how it fits into the options process in year 9.

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right but rather a combination of GCSE subjects. The EBacc was introduced by the Government in 2010 to encourage students to study a broad range of core subjects to help them go on to study higher education courses.

### The Research

- A study by the [UCL Institute of Education](#) shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.
- [Sutton Trust research](#) reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

### The Courses

In order to achieve the English Baccalaureate, students should have a mix of GCSE subjects which includes at least one subject from each of the areas outlined below. Detailed in the table are the qualifications on offer at Wyvern Academy that support students in achieving the EBacc.

Area	Qualifications
English	English Language, English Literature
Maths	Mathematics
Science	Combined Science, Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Computer Science
Humanities	Geography, History
Languages	Spanish





# Citizenship Studies

**For further details, please speak to:** Mr D. Henson

**Exam Board:** GCSE Citizenship Studies (Edexcel)

**Where will you find us on Options Evening?**

X



## Why should you choose Citizenship?

Citizenship Studies is about how people take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally. Students will learn about power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system, and the role of the UK in the wider world. They will explore and learn about different controversial and topical issues with political, social, ethical, economic and environmental dimensions in local to global contexts. They will experience taking citizenship action and learn from trying to make a difference themselves.

### Topics covered:

Theme A – Population changes, migration, identity, respect, Human Rights

Theme B – Elections, voting, government formations, making laws, taxes

Theme C – Law, sources of law, court systems, punishment and sentencing, crime in society

Theme D – Charities and organisations, United Nations and involvement in the world, media freedom

Theme E – Identifying and creating an action project to create change locally, nationally or internationally.

## How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes – Theme A Living together in the wider world, Theme B Democracy at work, Theme C Law and Justice
- Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes – Theme D Power and Influence in the world, Theme E Active Citizenship

## What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

After successfully completing the GCSE course, students can join an AS and A2 course in any of the artistic disciplines available. Regional and local colleges offer wonderful opportunities for this, leading further to entry into specialised degrees such as, law, social work, health and social, journalism, politics, sociology, criminology.

**Possible careers:** Lawyer/Legal work, journalism, Police officer, Politician, Analyst, Health worker, Civil Service.

**Skills for life:** Analysis work, research, presentation skills, completing investigations and enquiries, communication, and the use of thinking skills techniques to assist learning.







For further details, please speak to: Mr D Marshall

Exam Board: BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Where will you find us on Options Evening?

**ICT1**



**Why should you choose Digital Information Technology?** In today's world, digital skills are as important as literacy and numeracy. This course equips students with essential knowledge in IT project management, user interface design, data analysis, and cybersecurity. The qualification is designed to build problem-solving skills, creativity, and an understanding of digital working practices.

The course will include:

- **Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques –**  
Learning how user interfaces are designed and developing project management skills to create effective digital solutions.
- **Component 2: Collecting, Presenting, and Interpreting Data –**  
Understanding how data is collected, processed, and presented to support business decision-making.
- **Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices –**  
Exploring modern digital systems, cybersecurity threats, legal and ethical considerations, and how organisations use IT to improve efficiency.

### How will I be assessed?

- **Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques (30%) –** Internally assessed coursework.
- **Component 2: Collecting, Presenting, and Interpreting Data (30%) –** Internally assessed coursework.
- **Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices (40%) –** Externally assessed written examination (1 hour 30 minutes).

### **What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?**

Studying BTEC Digital Information Technology provides students with a strong foundation for further education and career opportunities in the digital sector. The course can lead to Level 3 vocational courses such as BTEC National in IT, apprenticeships, or A-Levels in related subjects such as Computer Science or Business. Many universities offer degrees in computing, cybersecurity, data analytics, and digital marketing.

Possible careers include:

- Software Developer
- IT Support Technician
- Cybersecurity Analyst
- Data Analyst





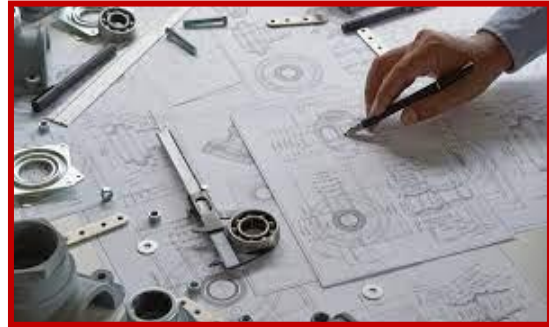
# Vocational Engineering Design

**For further details, please speak to:** Mr C McGrath

**Exam Board:** Cambridge National (OCR)

**Where will you find us on Options Evening?**

**ART2**



## Why should you choose Engineering?

This qualification is aimed at learners who wish to study the processes involved in designing new engineered products and the requirements of a design specification. Through research and practical activities, learners will understand how market requirements and opportunities inform client briefs and will use practical skills such as drawing, computer modelling and model making to communicate ideas.

This qualification is aimed at everyone who would like to find out more about engineering by:

- learning about the key engineering sectors – mechanics, electrical/electronic and engineering design and how they contribute to industry.
- developing key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research, observation, measurement, planning, making, using CAD and disassembly.
- developing key skills for employment in engineering sectors, such as problem solving, design, creativity, communication and collaboration.

## What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of engineering skills. You may want to go on to further study such as A Levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. You will find that many of the ideas covered here are further developed in qualifications such as BTEC Nationals in Engineering and Information Technology. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the engineering sector as an apprentice or a trainee. The course also links to engineering at degree level if you aspire to continue with this subject after KS5. The best option for you will depend on both the grades you achieve in this qualification and in any other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and the advice you can access about further learning and training opportunities available.











**For further details, please speak to:**  
Miss Dean

**Exam Board:** Edexcel/Pearson

**Where will you find us on Options Evening?**

**ICT2**



### Why should you choose History?

GCSE History helps young people to learn about their past, present and future world. It enables learners to experience different cultures and people and build a better understanding of the past to change the future. The exam has a focus on Britain's Health, Germany and the relations between the USA and Soviet Union; all of which are still in some ways a focus on our news channels today.

History helps with many skills that will be of importance to daily life and future education such as research skills, a focus on evidence and factual details, how to form a debate and an argument and developing essay writing skills. Arguably, without studying a Humanities subject you risk missing out on vital information and understanding about the world we live in and the progress that has been made over time.

### How will I be assessed?

There are three exam papers which will all be taken at the end of **Year 11**.

- Paper 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment: **Medicine in Britain 1250 - Now**
- Paper 2: Period Study: **Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991**  
**AND** the British Depth Study: **Anglo Saxon and Norman England 1060-1088**
- Paper 3: Modern Depth Study: **Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939**

It is important to know that the exam covers four objectives: Knowledge/understanding, explanation/evaluation, source analysis and interpretation analysis. The exams have a range of marks, all the way from 4 marks per question to 20 marks per question.

**ALL EXAM QUESTIONS EXPECT A GENEROUS AMOUNT OF WRITING:** There are no multiple choice or one-word answers in History so this is something to think about before choosing this option.

### What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

History teaches us to ask very important questions and helps support other subjects closely, such as English where many skills of inference and evaluation overlap.

You will be primed for a huge range of careers in history and beyond. Many universities look favourable at History as a subject and especially for degrees in law, where most ask for History at GCSE and A Level.

Areas you could go into include; Law, Politics, Public sector, Business, Marketing, Journalism, Economics, Teaching, Insurance, Archaeology and curation (museums, galleries, archives and libraries) and even scientific research.



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# Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering

For further details, please speak to: Mrs L. Marley

Exam Board: WJEC

Where will you find us on Options Evening?

**TEC3**



## Why should you choose Hospitality and Catering?

This Level 1 / 2 Vocational award equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to work within the hospitality and catering industry. You will be taught a wide variety of practical skills alongside knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating. You will learn how different hospitality and catering provisions operate and understand health and safety legislation within this.

### **Unit 1 – The Hospitality & Catering Industry**

#### **Overview**

- 1.1 Hospitality and catering provision
- 1.2 How hospitality and catering providers operate.
- 1.3 Health and safety in hospitality and catering
- 1.4 Food safety in hospitality and catering

### **Unit 2 – Hospitality & Catering in Action**

#### **Overview**

- 2.1 The importance of nutrition
- 2.2 Menu planning
- 2.3 The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes.
- 2.4 Evaluating cooking skills

## **How will I be assessed?**

### **Unit 1 – The Hospitality & Catering Industry**

**Weighting:** 40%  
**Duration:** 1hour 20minutes (written exam)  
**Number of marks:** 80  
 GLH: 48

### **Unit 2 – Hospitality & Catering in Action**

**Weighting:** 60%  
**Duration:** 12 hours-controlled assessment  
**Number of marks:** 120  
 GLH: 72

- **Please be aware, there is an expectation that you bring ingredients in every fortnight, as we will cook 3 lessons out of 6- if this is an issue you need to speak with Mrs Marley**

## **What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?**

This specification will enable learners to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways in not just The Hospitality and Catering industry but also in other aspects of the food industry, such as product development, packaging design, food science and nutrition. There is a job for everyone within this industry.

Ideal for students who may wish to go on to further education in the sector and pursue a career in Dietetics, Nutrition, Marketing, Nursing, Sports science, Health care, Product Development, Catering, Teaching, Journalism, Retail, Public relations, Advertising and Market research.



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**For further details, please speak to:** Mr Willis

**Exam Board:** GCSE Spanish (AQA)

**Where will you find us on Options Evening?**

**Main hall**



### Why should you choose Spanish?

Languages open up a whole range of exciting future career pathways and possibilities for the modern world. Students will study a wide range of interesting topics relating to the Spanish language and the culture of Spanish speaking countries. During the course you will increasingly understand how the Spanish language works through a range of topics, such as technology, free-time, Spanish festivals, charity work and careers. You will grow in confidence, accessing a wide range of high quality, authentic texts and have first class communication skills, working in pairs and small groups.

This course is suited to all students, but it helps if you have an interest in other cultures and broadening your horizons. Students will be using and developing a range of soft skills as well as learning another language. In the ever-developing world, it is now more important than ever to learn a foreign language and employers are looking for this skill too!

### How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1: Listening – 25% of total GCSE
- Paper 2: Speaking – 25% of total GCSE
- Paper 3: Reading – 25% of total GCSE
- Paper 4: Writing – 25% of total GCSE

### What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

GCSE Spanish is useful in a range of jobs. Careers which use languages directly include; journalism, Primary and Secondary teaching, translating, travel and tourism, law, marketing. Careers where you will use the skills you learnt studying a language include; Public and Armed Services, accountancy, leisure and hospitality, business services, healthcare. A language opens doors and opportunities for travel and working abroad. Once you have a GCSE in Spanish, it will be easier to learn a second language.

If you are thinking about going to University, it is important to consider choosing a GCSE in a language. Universities regard languages as “facilitating subjects” which means they will look favourably on applicants who have studied a language to at least GCSE standard.





# Vocational Sport

**For further details, please speak to:** Mr M. Hillary

**Exam Board:** OCR Cambridge National L2 in Sports Studies

**Where will you find us on Options Evening?**

**ICT 3**



## Why should you choose Sport?

The Cambridge National in Sport Studies takes a sector-based approach, whilst also including core sport and physical education themes. Students have the opportunity to apply fundamental principles and concepts of sport studies, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. Students will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, how technology is used within sport, ethics and values, and sport and the media.

### **The course is broken down into three components:**

R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport

R185: Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities

R186: Sport and the Media

## How will I be assessed?

Cambridge Nationals use both internal and external assessment. The qualification is made up of two mandatory units and one optional unit.

- R184: The externally assessed unit makes up 40% of the qualification and is taken at the end of the course in the form of an exam.
- R185: This component is internally assessed through practical performance, written assignments and leadership activities. This part of the course makes up 40% of the final grade.
- R186: Evidence is collated in the form of a report that covers the different sources of media and the positive and negative effects of these media outlets. This part of the course makes up 20% of the final grade and is internally assessed.

## What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

This qualification is aimed at pupils looking to gain the knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and, in due course, prepare learners to enter the workplace. Learners can expect to begin to gain the skills necessary to work in the fields of: Sports coaching, PE teaching, armed forces, police, fire service, fitness instruction, leisure centre management, sports psychologist and sports physio to name but a few.

Following the completion of the Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport Studies, there is a clear progression route to the Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Sport and Activity.



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# Vocational Travel and Tourism

For further details, please speak to: Mr Marshall

Exam Board: Pearson BTEC

Where will you find us on Options Evening?

**ICT 1**



## Why should you choose Sport?

The travel and tourism sector is one of the fastest-growing industries worldwide, offering exciting and varied career opportunities. This course will help students develop an understanding of how the industry operates, customer needs, and the factors affecting global tourism. The course also encourages transferable skills such as problem-solving, research, and customer service, which are valuable in many careers.

The course will include:

- **Component 1: Travel & Tourism Organisations and Destinations** – Understanding the different types of travel and tourism organisations, their role in the industry, and what makes a destination appealing to visitors.
- **Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel & Tourism** – Investigating how travel organisations identify and meet customer needs and planning travel arrangements for different types of customers.
- **Component 3: Influences on Global Travel & Tourism** – Examining factors that influence travel trends, the impact of tourism on destinations, and how destinations respond to these challenges.

## How will I be assessed?

- **Component 1: Travel & Tourism Organisations and Destinations (30%)** – Internally assessed coursework.
- **Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel & Tourism (30%)** – Internally assessed coursework.
- **Component 3: Influences on Global Travel & Tourism (40%)** – Externally assessed written examination (2 hours).

## What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

Studying BTEC Travel & Tourism provides students with an excellent foundation for careers in the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries. The course offers a pathway to Level 3 vocational courses such as BTEC National in Travel and Tourism, apprenticeships, or A-Levels in related subjects such as Business or Geography. Many universities offer degrees in tourism management, hospitality, and event planning. Possible careers include: Travel Agent, Holiday Representative, Cabin Crew, Hotel Manager, Tour Guide, Events Manager, Cruise Ship Staff, Airline Ground Crew, Tourism Marketing Executive, Hospitality Management.



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# Year 9 Options 2025

## Options Choice Sheet



Student Name

### CORE SUBJECTS

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Combined Science	Core PE	PSHE
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Option 1:** Choose **ONE** subject from the list below

Option 1	TICK ONE
GCSE Geography	
GCSE History	
GCSE Spanish	

**Option 2:** Choose **TWO** subjects from the list below

GCSE	TICK	Vocational	TICK
Art and Design – Fine art		Digital Information technology	
Art and Design – Photography		Engineering and design	
Citizenship		Health and Social Care	
Computer Science		Hospitality and Catering	
Film studies		Sport Studies	
Geography		Travel and Tourism	
History			
Music			
Religious Studies			
Spanish			
Triple Science			

**Stage 3:** Choose **TWO RESERVE** choices based on the list above.

[You should not choose any of the choices selected in option 1 or option 2]

Reserve Subject 1	
Reserve Subject 2	

**Return your form to the Main Office by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.**