



# Year 9 Options

## 2025



# Our aims are

For students to study a curriculum that **suits their abilities, skills and aspirations**

For students to follow a curriculum that is **broad and balanced**

For students to be given the opportunity to **focus on their strengths and to explore new areas of interest**

For students to be able to access a **range of future choices** at the end of Year 11



## Grading new GCSEs from 2017

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6 5 STRONG PASS 4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

All GCSE courses are graded from 1-9

Grade 4 is a **standard pass**  
Grade 5 is a **strong pass**

# The core curriculum

**Maths**

**English  
Language**

**English  
Literature**

**Science  
(either  
double or  
triple)**

**Modern  
Foreign  
Language\***

**History**

**and/or**

**Geography**



# Options curriculum

- Students choose **two options subjects**
- Students need to make a **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice**
- Students will also have to choose **two reserve subjects** again in order of preference
- All subjects lead to a GCSE qualification apart from those in red which are L2 vocational courses
- Computer science: appropriate for students in maths sets 1-3

- History
- Geography
- P&R
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Design technology
- Food preparation and nutrition
- PE/**Sports studies**
- **Performing Arts**
- Drama
- Music
- Sociology
- Business studies
- Computer science
- Art, craft and design
- Art textiles
- Photography

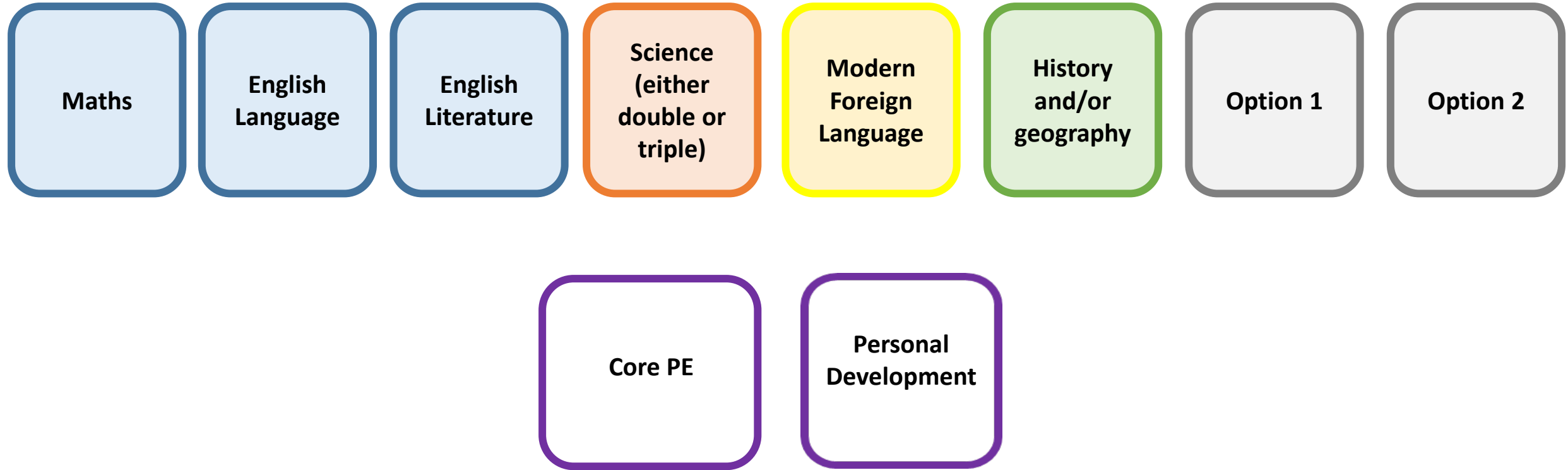
# What are vocational qualifications?

- They are a **level 2** qualification i.e. the equivalent of a GCSE
- They are assessed through a mix of exams and assessments (coursework)
- The curriculum in these subjects is more practical than most GCSEs
- They are **NOT** an easy option
- They are graded differently (pass, merit, distinction)

**Performing Arts**

**Sports Studies**

# KS4 curriculum



## Good reasons for students to choose subjects

- **They enjoy the subject and will work hard**
- **They have found out about what they will learn in that subject in years 10-11**
- **They have spoken to subject teachers/older students/their tutor about the subject**
- **They have listened to the advice they have been given**

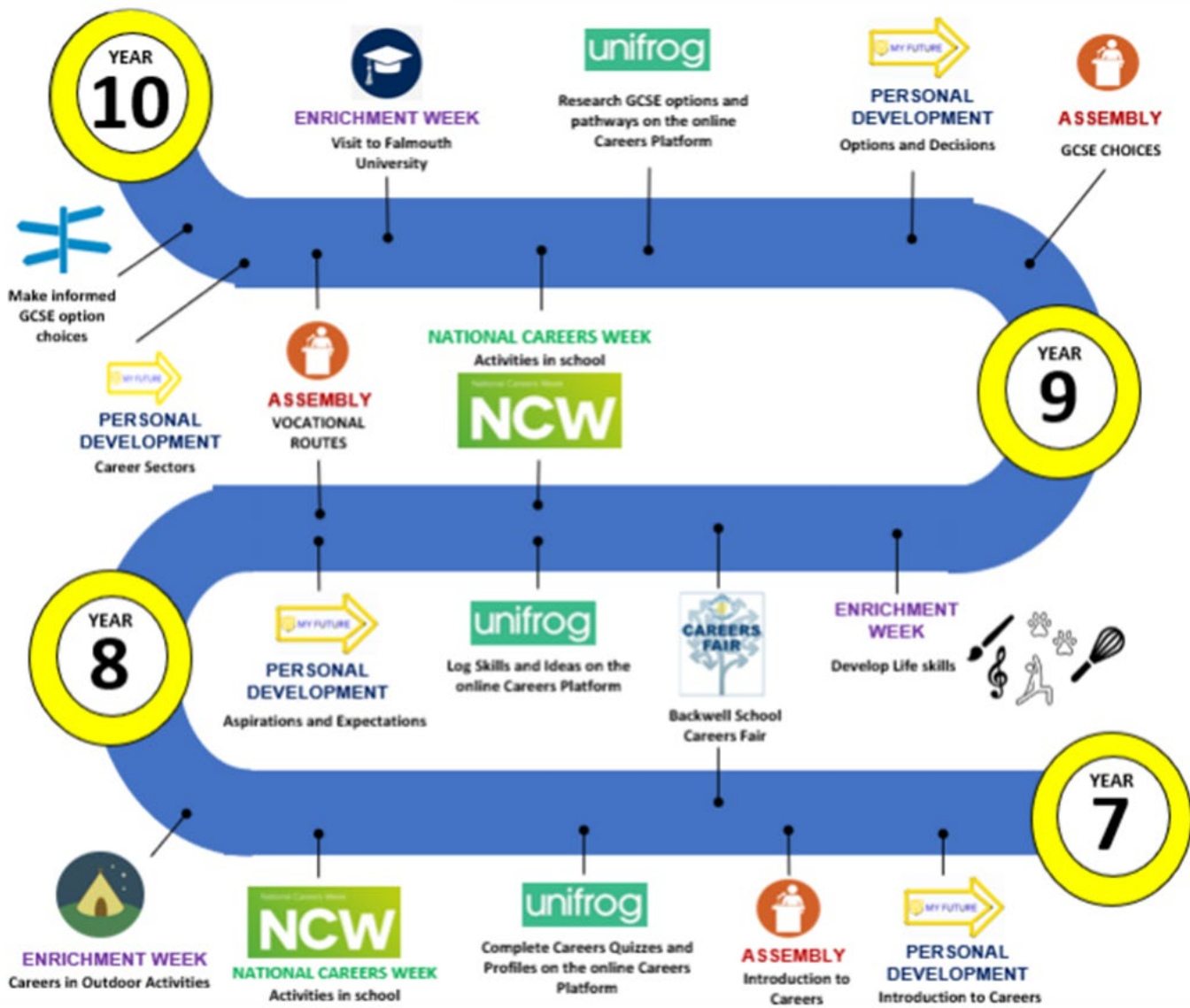


## Bad reasons to choose subjects

- They like the teacher they have in Y9 for that subject
- Their friends have chosen that subject
- They think they will like it because it's something different but haven't done any research or spoken to anyone about it
- They ignore the advice they have been given

# What happens next?

- Read the **options booklet**
- Visit the **subject showcase** to find out more about options subjects, talk to subject staff and current GCSE students
- **Do your research** -Talk to subject teachers/older students/tutors to find out more about subject choices
- Fill in the **options form** and hand it in to Student Services by **Wednesday 26 February**

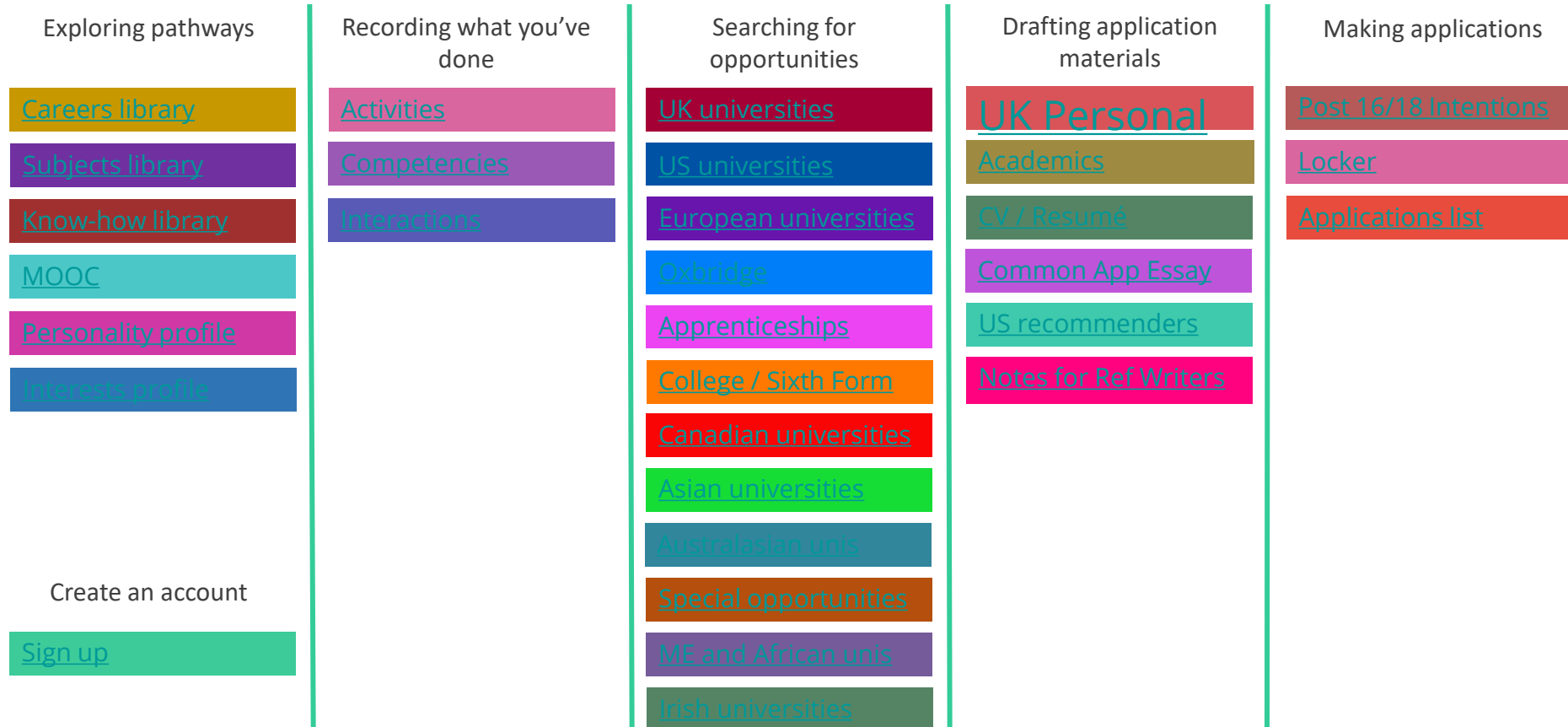


# BACKWELL SCHOOL CAREERS JOURNEY

## KEY STAGE 3



# unifrog



Parents/carers can register using the formcode: **BACKparentscarers**

# SUBJECT SHOWCASE- Sixth form block

<b>6<sup>th</sup> form canteen</b>	geography, history, P and R, languages, careers
<b>6<sup>th</sup> form theatre</b>	art, food, photography, textiles, design technology
<b>Dance studio</b>	drama, music, performing arts
<b>SF4</b>	computing
<b>SF1</b>	business, sociology
<b>SF2</b>	PE, sports studies