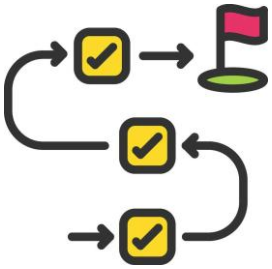
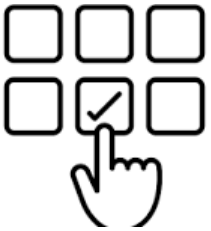
Curriculum Pathways Year 8 Options Evening

Mrs Daniels – Deputy Headteacher









Thursday 26th of February 2026

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If your child chose their future tonight…

…what would you want that decision to be based on?






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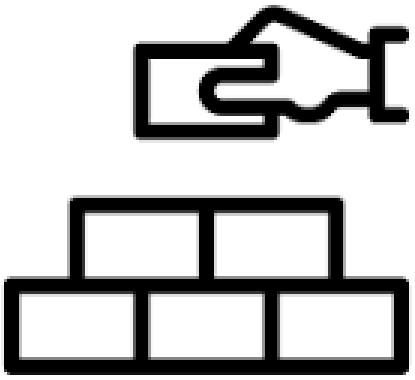
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Aims of the Options Process

Year 9 is a **transition year** and **not** early specialisation.

It is about building foundations.

- Habits
- Attitudes
- Breadth
- Resilience
- Opportunity



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The National Context



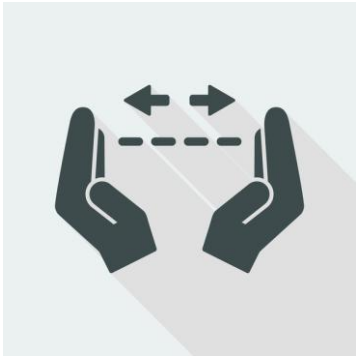
- National review of curriculum and assessment underway
- Ongoing discussion about knowledge, assessment and preparation for modern life
- Continued emphasis on *breadth, depth and high standards*

Whatever changes nationally, one principle remains consistent:
Strong academic foundations matter.

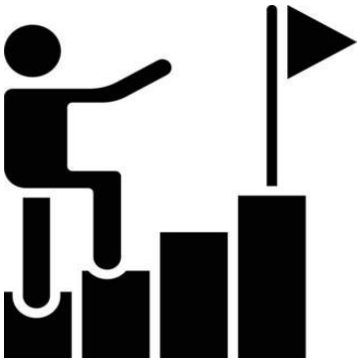
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Our Position at Bishop Fox's

What This Means for Our Students



- Academic breadth remains a priority
- Challenge remains central
- Creative and technical pathways are valued
- Balance protects long-term opportunity



We will not narrow pathways too early.

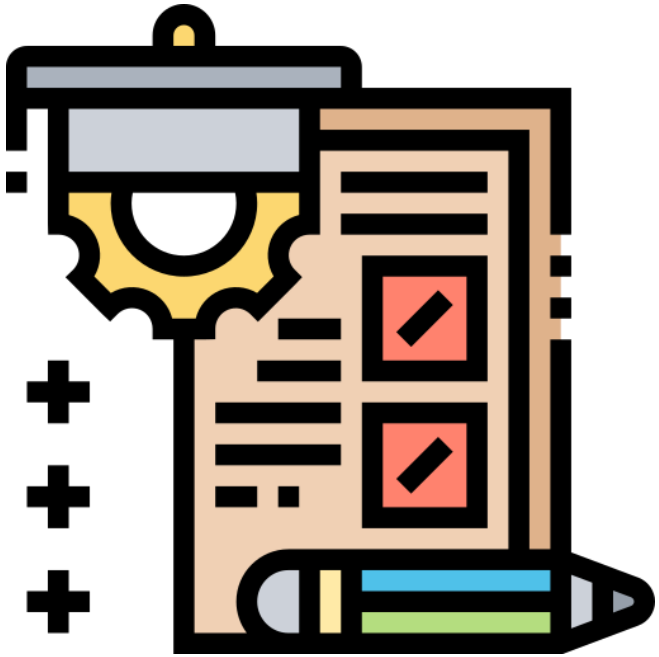
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The Core Curriculum

60% of the timetable remains core

All students continue to study:

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Triple or Combined)
- Core PE
- Religious Studies
- PSHE, Citizenship & Careers



Year 9 remains broad, ambitious and balanced.

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Keeping Pathways Open

We ask all students to choose at least one subject from Group 2

- French or Spanish
- Geography or History





Why?

- Keeps more doors open post-16
- Supports A Level progression
- Signals academic resilience
- Develops analytical and global understanding

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What Actually Predicts Success at KS4

Success is driven more by:

- Attendance
- Effort
- Resilience
- Organisation
- Independent study



There is no "easy" option.

There are different types of challenge.

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How to Choose Well



1. Interest + Effort

Enjoyment matters but commitment matters more.

2. Understand Assessment

Exam? Coursework? Performance? Deadlines?

3. Create Balance

Strengths + challenge + varied assessment styles

4. Seek Advice

Read carefully. Ask questions. Reflect honestly

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What We Do Not Recommend

- Choosing because friends are
- Choosing based on a teacher
- Avoiding challenge
- Assuming one subject is "easier"



Long-term opportunity matters more than short-term comfort.

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The Exploration Phase Tonight

Students will:



- Visit subject areas in the Diner & Dance Hall
- Speak directly to Curriculum Team Leaders
- Complete their **Options Explorer Passport**
- Reflect before submitting choices

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The Online Form

- A Link will be sent via Class Charts this evening
- To be completed together at home
- **4 options + 2 reserves**
- Year 8 parents evening – March 12th
- Deadline for submitting choices – March 16th



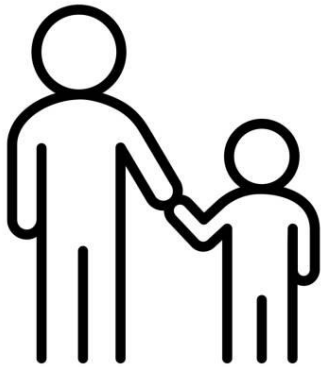
Please do not rush this process tonight.

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The Role of Parents & Guardians

Your role is not to choose for them but to guide them.

- Ask questions
- Challenge thinking
- Encourage independence
- Reinforce resilience
- Keep perspective



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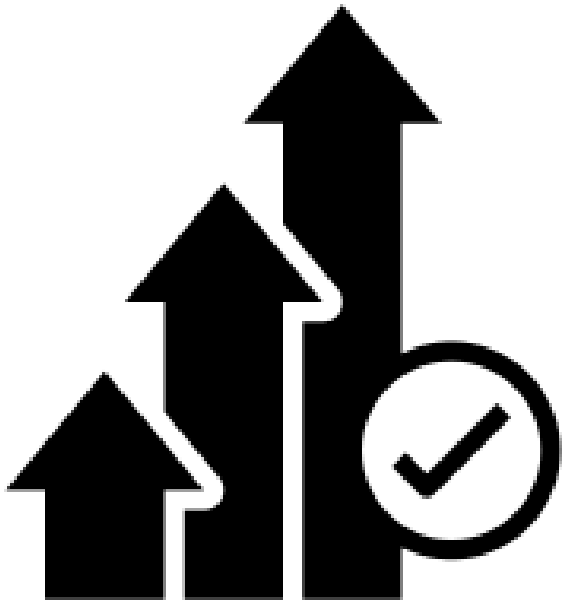
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Final Message to our Year 8 students

Choose thoughtfully.

Commit fully.

Take pride in your learning.



Attitude, effort and resilience always matter

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