



# The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher: **Mrs H Frost-Briggs BA (Hons)**  
We are **AMBITIOUS**. We are **COMMITTED**. We are **PROUD**.

8th December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Year 9 GCSE Options Process

As you are aware, your child will be starting their Key Stage 4 GCSE courses in September 2026. We will shortly be beginning the options process with your child. Students will have a free choice of six subjects to study in order of preference. These will then be reduced to four final choices based on the feasibility of groupings. It is hoped that this will enable students to study the subjects they genuinely want to, rather than from a limited combination of option blocks.

There are a number of important events relating to the options process which are designed to give yourself and your child as much information, support and guidance in making the most appropriate choices for their future. Useful information regarding the options process will be available on the 'Year 9 Options' page of the school website throughout January. This includes a short presentation from myself explaining the procedures and application schedule as well as subject specific presentations sharing course information. The scheduled parents evening on January 28<sup>th</sup> will provide an opportunity to speak with subject staff should you have any questions. Alternatively, our Heads of departments' contact details can be found below if you have any subject-related queries in the meantime.

The Options Process Key dates and events are as follows:

WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026

### Year 9 Options Assembly

Curriculum booklets issued to Year 9 students.

THROUGHOUT JANUARY

Subject specific information available on the school website [here](#)

THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026

**Year 9 Options Evening 5.30 – 7pm further information to follow in January.**

WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026

### Year 9 Parents Evening

An opportunity to discuss the feasibility of options choices with subject teachers.

28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

**Options Application Forms available and returned online to Mrs Thawley.**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

**Deadline** for return of Options applications.



**Option subject contact details:**

<b>Science</b>	wbrown@ripleyacademy.org
<b>History</b> <b>Geography</b> <b>Religious Studies</b>	ckenway@ripleyacademy.org
<b>Computer Science</b>	chudson@ripleyacademy.org
<b>3D Design</b> <b>Design Technology</b>	cbarton@ripleyacademy.org
<b>Food &amp; Nutrition</b>	sbarlow@ripleyacademy.org
<b>Art</b> <b>Photography</b>	ahart@ripleyacademy.org
<b>Business</b>	jradbourne@ripleyacademy.org
<b>Music</b>	ebyrne@ripleyacademy.org
<b>Drama</b>	aodowd@ripleyacademy.org
<b>Modern Foreign Languages</b> French Spanish	rpardoroques@ripleyacademy.org
<b>Sport</b> <b>Health and Social Care</b>	rgrainger@ripleyacademy.org

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the options process.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Thawley  
Deputy Headteacher