Audenshaw School

Year 9 – GCSE Guided Pathways (Options)

Guided Pathways – important dates

03 March 2026	**AP2 data sent to parents/carers.**
05 March 2026	**Year 9 Progress Evening**
12 March 2026	**Introductory meeting for parents/carers.**
13 March 2026	**SIMS software open for choices and instructions sent out.**
17 April 2026	**Deadline for students' choices.**

Students are less likely to get their first choices if they miss the deadlines.

Core Subjects

These subjects are compulsory for all students.

☐ **English** **Language and Literature (2 GCSEs)**

☐ **Mathematics** **(1 GCSE)**

☐ **Science** **Combined (2 GCSEs) or Triple (3 GCSEs)**

☐ **Life Skills** **For all students**

Science – Combined or Triple?

- ☐ **All students study Science for GCSE.**

- ☐ **Students have the option to chose Triple Science if they are in Sets 1 and 2 and have shown engagement in lessons during Year 9.**

- ☐ **Students should select Triple Science if they are interested in a science-related career or want to take a science A-Level.**

- ☐ **If students choose Triple Science, they will get separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry & Physics.**

The academic foundation

- By studying Geography, History, French or Spanish, students ensure that they have the appropriate academic foundation for post-16 choices.

- Students who achieve in these subjects have better career prospects than students who study a narrower range of subjects.

- Studying these subjects helps you to understand a lot more about the world and other cultures.

- Studying a humanities subject *and* a language is the best academic foundation for applying to the most prestigious courses post-16.

Other GCSE Subjects:

These subjects lead to full GCSE qualifications:

- ☐ **Art & Design**
- ☐ **Computer Science**
- ☐ **Design & Technology – Food**
- ☐ **Design & Technology – 3D Design**
- ☐ **Drama**
- ☐ **Music**
- ☐ **Photography**
- ☐ **Religious Studies**

Vocational courses:

Students should pick these courses if they are interested in these areas for future careers or courses:

☐ **Enterprise**

☐ **ICT**

☐ **Sport**

☐ **Engineering**

A maximum of 3 vocational courses can be studied.

Picking your subjects

- All students will be studying English, mathematics and science.
- Students pick one subject (and a reserve) from Block A.

Option A

You have chosen 0 of 1 ✓ courses and 0 of 1 ✓ reserves from this list

| French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve | Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve | History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option B | | ℹ This course is also available in Option B | | ℹ This course is also available in Option B | |

OR

Option A

You have chosen 0 of 1 ✓ courses and 0 of 1 ✓ reserves from this list

| Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve | History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve | Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option B | | ℹ This course is also available in Option B | | ℹ This course is also available in Option B | |

Picking your subjects

☐ **All students pick three subjects (and two reserves) from Block B.**

Option B

You have chosen (0 of 3 ✓) courses and (0 of 2 ✓) reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Business & Enterprise BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	DT Engineering Level 1/2 Award	Reserve	DT Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	ICT BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
ℹ️ This course is also available in Option A		ℹ️ This course is also available in Option A			
Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	R.S. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Sport Studies BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	DT 3D Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
ℹ️ This course is also available in Option A					
Triple Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve				

Useful Information

☐ When picking the subjects, students should be considering the subjects where they make good progress and engaged in their learning.

History	Below Track	Engaged
Geography	On Track	Exceptional
Spanish	On Track	Exceptional
DT	On Track	Exceptional
IT	On Track	Engaged
RE	Below Track	Engaged
Art	Above Track	Exceptional
Music	Below Track	Exceptional
PE	Below Track	Engaged

He would probably pick Geography and Spanish as he is doing well in these two subjects.

The student is making progress in Art so this would be a good choice.

He can still pick another subject, for example DT.

Subject Information

- ☐ The information about every course is on the school website.
- ☐ This includes links to the course websites and all the assessments.
- ☐ Careers information is also included.

Guided Pathways – Subject selection.

- ☐ **Read the Subject information document.**

- ☐ **Use the aspirations advice and recent progress data report to decide which courses are the most suitable.**

- ☐ **Students should pick one subject from Block A (plus a reserve) and three from Block B (two reserves).**

- ☐ **Use all the information to discuss their preferences at home.**

- ☐ **Select subjects using www.sims-options.co.uk (deadline Friday 17 April). Details next slide.**

- ☐ **Allocated subjects are confirmed in June.**

- ☐ **If you need advice please send an email to guidedpathways@audenshawschool.org.uk and a leadership team member will be in touch.**

Online subject pre-selection system - SIMS

- ☐ **Parents and carers can use the SIMS app that the school uses.**
- ☐ **If not registered on the app, you will get an invite to use this.**
- ☐ **The subject choices are can be submitted using www.sims-options.co.uk**
- ☐ **You should pick one subject from Block A (plus a reserve) and three from Block B (two reserves).**
- ☐ **If you need extra advice please email guidedpathways@audenshawschool.org.uk and a member of the leadership team will be in touch.**

Online subject pre-selection system – for students

- ☐ **The subject choices are submitted using www.sims-options.co.uk**

- ☐ **Students log on using their school email address. 23surnameinitial@audenshawschool.org.uk. Use the password they use to login to school computers.**

- ☐ **This will open the system for pre-selection.**

- ☐ **You should pick one subject from Block A (plus a reserve) and three from Block B (two reserves).**

- ☐ **For extra advice please email guidedpathways@audenshawschool.org.uk and a member of the leadership team will be in touch.**

Incomplete sheet looks like this

Choices turn blue when selected. These are the subjects that you would like your son to study.

Option A

You have chosen [1 of 1] ✓ courses and [0 of 1] ✓ reserves from this list

Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
❗ You have selected this course in Option B		ℹ This course is also available in Option B		ℹ This course is also available in Option B	

Option B

You have chosen [3 of 3] ✓ courses and [0 of 2] ✓ reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Business & Enterprise BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	DT Engineering Level 1/2 Award	Reserve	DT Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	ICT BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
ℹ This course is also available in Option A		ℹ This course is also available in Option A			
Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	R.S. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Sport Studies BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	DT 3D Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
❗ You have selected this course in Option A					
Triple Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve				

Reserves turn orange when selected. These are the subjects that your son would study if choices are not available.

Option A

You have chosen **1 of 1** ✓ courses and **1 of 1** ✓ reserves from this list

| **Geog** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ❗ You have selected this course in Option B | |

| **History** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option B | |

| **Spanish** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option B | |

Option B

You have chosen **3 of 3** ✓ courses and **2 of 2** ✓ reserves from this list

| **Art** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| **Business & Enterprise** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 | Reserve |

| **Computer Science** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| **Drama** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| **DT Engineering** Level 1/2 Award | Reserve |

| **DT Food** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| **Geog** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option A | |

| **History** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ❗ You have selected this course in Option A | |

| **ICT** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 | Reserve |

| **Music** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| **Photography** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| **R.S.** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| **Spanish** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ❗ You have selected this course in Option A | |

| **Sport Studies** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 | Reserve |

| **DT 3D Design** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| **Triple Science** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

Example of completed sheet.
You should put the choices and reserves in order of preference. This is done by dragging and dropping in the list. Save when you have finished.

Option A

You have chosen `1 of 1` ✓ courses and `1 of 1` ✓ reserves from this list

| Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ❗ You have selected this course in Option B | |

| History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option B | |

| Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option B | |

Option B

You have chosen `3 of 3` ✓ courses and `2 of 2` ✓ reserves from this list

| Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| Business & Enterprise BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 | Reserve |

| Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| DT Engineering Level 1/2 Award | Reserve |

| DT Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option A | |

| History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ❗ You have selected this course in Option A | |

| ICT BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 | Reserve |

| Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| R.S. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ❗ You have selected this course in Option A | |

| Sport Studies BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 | Reserve |

| DT 3D Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

| Triple Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

My Choices in Order of Preference

To change your order of preference select a choice the list you would like to move it to.

1. **Spanish** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option A
2. **Geog** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B
3. **Sport Studies** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Option B
4. **DT Food** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B

Selected subjects in order

My Reserves in Order of Preference

To change your order of preference select a reserve the list you would like to move it to.

1. **History** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option A
2. **DT Engineering** Level 1/2 Award Option B
3. **R.S.** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B

Example of completed sheet.

Option A

You have chosen 1 of 1 ✓ courses and 1 of 1 ✓ reserves from this list

| Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ⚠ You have selected this course in Option B | |

| History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option B | |

| Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| ℹ This course is also available in Option B | |

Option B

You have chosen 3 of 3 ✓ courses and 2 of 2 ✓ reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Business & Enterprise BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
DT Engineering Level 1/2 Award	Reserve
DT Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
ℹ This course is also available in Option A	
History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
⚠ You have selected this course in Option A	
ICT BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve

Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
R.S. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
⚠ You have selected this course in Option A	
Sport Studies BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
DT 3D Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

| Triple Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |

My Choices in Order of Preference

To change your order of preference select a choice the list you would like to move it to.

1. **Spanish** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option A
2. **Geog** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B
3. **Sport Studies** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Option B
4. **DT Food** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B

Selected subjects in order

My Reserves in Order of Preference

To change your order of preference select a reserve the list you would like to move it to.

1. **History** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option A
2. **DT Engineering** Level 1/2 Award Option B
3. **R.S.** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B

For popular subjects like Photography, Sport and Triple Science, students need to have these as one of their highest ranked preferences.

Example of completed sheet.

My Choices in Order of Preference

To change your order of preference select a choice the list you would like to move it to.

1. **Spanish** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option A
2. **Geog** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B
3. **Sport Studies** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Option B
4. **DT Food** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B

Selected subjects in order

Option A

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

| **Geog** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve | **History** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve | **Spanish** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course | Reserve |
| You have selected this course in Option B | | This course is also available in Option B | | This course is also available in Option B | |

Option B

You have chosen 3 of 3 courses and 2 of 2 reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	**Business & Enterprise** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	**Computer Science** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	**DT Engineering** Level 1/2 Award	Reserve	**DT Food** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Geog GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	**History** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	**ICT** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
This course is also available in Option A		You have selected this course in Option A			
Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	**Photography** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	**R.S.** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	**Sport Studies** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	**DT 3D Design** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
You have selected this course in Option A					
Triple Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve				

When you submit the choices, there is no notification sent that these have been received.

This is due to the software that SIMS uses.

My Reserves in Order of Preference

To change your order of preference select a reserve the list you would like to move it to.

1. **History** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option A
2. **DT Engineering** Level 1/2 Award Option B
3. **R.S.** GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B

Common Questions

☐ **Will I get my first choice subjects?**

Most students get their first choices although some unusual combinations might not fit. You are less likely to get an oversubscribed subject if it is your fourth choice.

☐ **Can I change my mind?**

Think very carefully about your choices now as it becomes more difficult to make changes later. Many subjects are oversubscribed so the order of preference is considered.

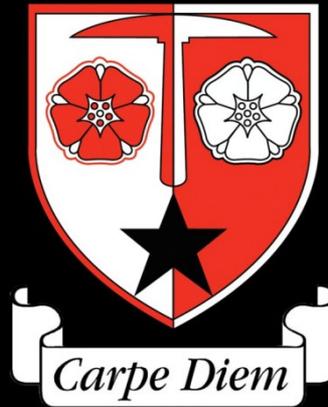☐ **Are there any subjects that you can't do together?**

Students are not able to do Art and 3D Design.

☐ **Do I still do PE if I don't choose BTEC Sport?**

All students will still have Games lessons each week.

☐ **Do I still do RE lessons each week if I don't pick RS?**

Statutory components from RE and Personal Development are covered in Life Skills lessons.

Audenshaw School
Guided Pathways

If you need extra advice please email guidedpathways@audenshawschool.org.uk and a member of the leadership team will be in touch.