

Welcome to the Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 22nd January 2026



“Be Inspired and Achieve Together”

Introduction to Key Staff



Mr Simpson
Executive Principal



Ms Dalton
Vice Principal:
Curriculum



Aspiration-dreams-highest standards

Key Stage 4 Options 2026

The Class of 2028



What do you want your future to be?



EDUCATION IS
OUR PASSPORT
TO THE FUTURE,
FOR TOMORROW
BELONGS TO THE
PEOPLE WHO
PREPARE FOR
IT TODAY

MALCOM X



“Be Inspired and Achieve Together”

Welcome to the Academy

Enjoy and Achieve

- Crossroads in their academic journey
- Some students will find decisions hard to make
- Opportunities and future post 16 aspirations
- If students enjoy the subject they'll achieve well
- Advice and guidance



Options, Next Steps and The 7-Year Journey



Timeline for Options 2026

- **Friday 23rd January:** Google Sites Option Information site launched and shared with parents and students.
- **W/C 26th January:** Option Choices made in Tutor time.
- **W/C 23rd February:** initial email of Options choices sent to parents with timeline for making any changes.
- **W/C 16th March:** Final email to parents with final Options choices.



The Seven Year Journey from Year 7 to 13

- **Key Stage 3:** a foundation in learning across the National Curriculum and preparation for next steps to Key Stage 4.
- **Key Stage 4** (Years 10 and 11): a range of national qualifications in preparation for next steps to Arnold Hill Spencer 6th Form to do A Levels/some Level 3 BTEC, College for BTEC and other vocational qualifications and apprenticeships.
- **Key Stage 5** (Years 12 and 13): a range of national qualifications in preparation for university, college, training, apprenticeships.



Option Choices and Guidance for Key Stage 4

All students will study:

- GCSE English Language and English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This will either be in the form of three separate Sciences (Triple) or Double Science (Trilogy). The final decision for this will be made in year 11.

All students have to choose at least **one** of **History, Geography, French or Spanish**.

- All students will also choose **two reserve** choices.



Subjects that will be offered as Key Stage 4 Options include:

- History, Geography, Beliefs Philosophy and Ethics, BTEC Health and Social Care
- French, Spanish
- Business, Computer Science, BTEC Creative Media and BTEC Travel and Tourism
- Food Technology
- Art, Music, Drama
- GCSE PE and GCSE Dance



Facilitating subjects

- Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses.
- Students must study GCSEs in English, Maths, Science plus one of History or Geography and an additional language. These subjects, if studied at A level, are considered facilitating subjects.



National Curriculum Review 2025

- Published in November 2025 by the Government.
- Changes will not impact the current year 9 cohort for Key Stage 4 (year 10 and 11).



Support and Guidance

Which subjects are right for me?

- Assemblies
- Tutor Sessions
- Subject Taster Sessions
- Subject Specialists
- Student Ambassadors
- Virtual Website



The Seven Year Journey from Year 7 to 13

- A Levels
- Vocational Qualifications
- Apprenticeships

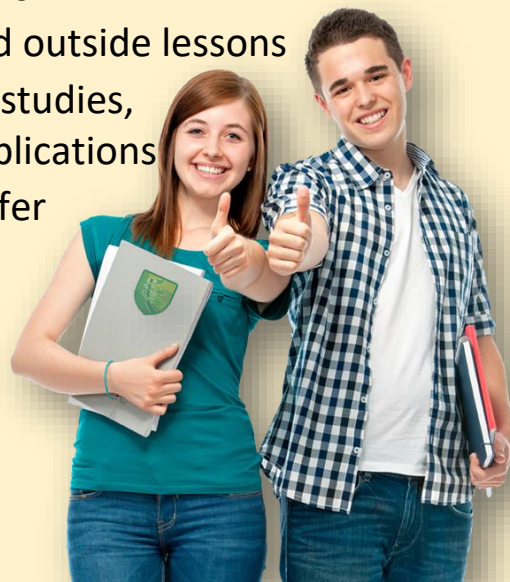




“Be Inspired and Achieve Together”

Many Reasons to Choose Arnold Hill for your Sixth Form

- **Strong results:** our students make considerably more progress from their GCSE results than other schools
- **Strong teaching:** excellent support in and outside lessons
- **Supportive tutors:** excellent support for studies, UCAS & Employment/Apprenticeship applications
- **Wide range of courses:** 30 courses on offer
- **Class sizes** generally 10-17
- A Timetable that fits your choices and needs
- Excellent Personal Development and Enrichment opportunities



“Be Inspired and Achieve Together”



“

Teachers use their expert subject knowledge to work with eager and dedicated students

Ofsted

“

Beyond the classroom, students take on opportunities to develop their leadership skills and interests. They embody the school's vision to be inspired and achieve together. They are driven to achieve

Ofsted

“

One student reflected the views of many by saying that they are proud to be ambassadors of the school

Ofsted

SIXTH FORM: OUTSTANDING - Inspection, June 2025

“

Staff use their specialist subject knowledge to provide pupils with clear explanations. Staff check pupils understanding carefully



Ofsted

“

Students in the Sixth Form value the Astral reward programme



Ofsted

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The school's curriculum offer in the sixth form allows for students to achieve exceptionally well.



Ofsted

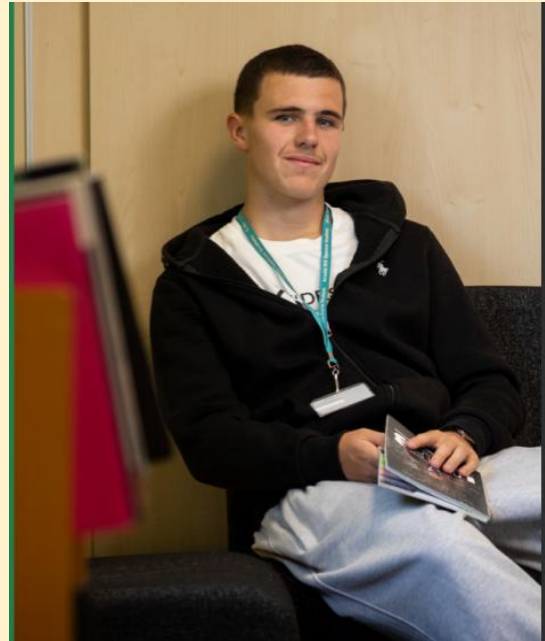


30 Courses to Choose from

More Choice and Pathways

[ARNO-SIXTH-form-prospectus.indd](#)

[Subject Pages – Arnold Hill Spencer Academy](#)



“Be Inspired and Achieve Together”

Degree/Career	A Levels to Choose
Doctor (Medicine)	Biology and Chemistry are essential
Dentistry	Biology and Chemistry are essential
Solicitor (Law)	Essay based subjects. History, English Literature, BPE, Economics (A Level Law not necessary)
Engineering	Maths and Physics essential (A Level engineering not necessary)
Veterinary Science	Chemistry and Biology and either maths or physics
Nursing and Midwifery	No essential subjects but good choices are Biology, Psychology, Health and Social care
Physiotherapy	Biology is essential. Some universities will ask for a second science
Economics	Maths essential
Sport Science	PE A Level or BTEC Sport essential
Architecture	Maths and or Art



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Why Key Stage 4 matters: Sixth Form Entry Requirements

- To study **Vocational courses** like BTEC at Arnold Hill Spencer Academy Sixth form you need to have achieved a **minimum** of five courses at GCSE Grades 9-4 including English and Mathematics
- To study **A Level courses** you need to have achieved a **minimum** of five courses at GCSE Grades 9-5 including English and Mathematics. In addition, there are subject specific entry criteria.



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