

January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2026, your child will be starting Key Stage 4 and will begin a two-year programme of study which will lead to a range of nationally recognised qualifications.

Your child has been given a booklet which details the Options process and the Pathway which they have been assigned to. Within the booklet, you will also find useful information to help you support your child making their options choices. The separate subject booklet contains information about the different types of qualification which are on offer and the core subjects that all students must study.

### **Our Aim**

Our aim is for all of our students to achieve their personal best and transition successfully from their education at Thornhill Community Academy on to a variety of Post 16 opportunities and pathways, which may include apprenticeships or courses at College. Your child has been placed on an Options Pathway based on their prior and current attainment data. This appropriate Pathway will allow your child to study a broad and balanced curriculum and achieve good outcomes. The options process will allow your child to choose from a range of GCSEs and vocational qualifications, which will allow them to study the subjects that are required nationally and choose some which will fulfil their personal interests and skill set.

Parents, students and Academy staff all play a part in choosing options. We advise parents and carers to take time to sit and discuss the information in these booklets, to ensure that the most appropriate choices are made. Your child does not have to make



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the option decision on their own; they should use all of the support and guidance available to them. Please encourage them to:

- Think carefully about why they want to choose some subjects in preference to others. Choose subjects because: they enjoy them; they are good at them; and they would like to study them at A Level and even university.
- Not choose the subject because their friend is choosing it, because they like the teacher or think it will be easy!
- Research the careers they are interested in and consider which subjects would help them to achieve this goal. There is a 'Careers Directory' and 'Labour Market Information (LMI)' on the Academy website, which may help.
- Talk to their subject teachers about the subjects that they are interested in studying, and find out more about the courses that they will be taking.

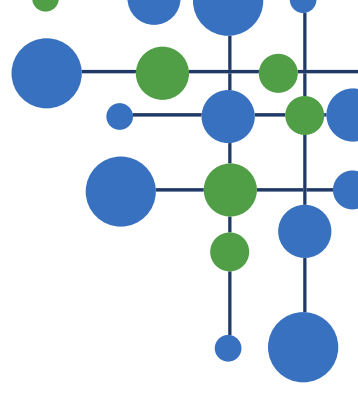
### **Support**

We aim to support our students through this process by working with them in the following ways:

- Assemblies to guide students through the process of option choices
- Taster sessions of subjects, both new and existing
- Options evening for students and parents to attend
- Guidance interviews with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure they are making the best choices for them

We offer students a full range of in-depth information to prepare them to make the best choices for their KS4 qualifications. All information can be found on the school website

<https://www.thornhillcommunityacademy.co.uk/y9options>



The key dates and deadlines for the Option process are as follows:

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Options launch assembly
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January- Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Options Taster Lessons
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Options Information Evening, 4-6pm (parents/carers & students)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Options advice interviews begin
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Y9 Parent's Evening
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Deadline to return Options Form

All students must complete the Option Choice Form (MS Form) emailed to them by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

We aim to do our best to ensure that each student is allocated their choice of options but this depends on the numbers opting for each subject and the availability of teaching staff. *Please note, we are unable to run groups that are too large to teach or too small to be viable.* Should any problems arise with the choices made by your son or daughter, we will contact you to discuss this and suggest possible solutions.

If at any time you have questions about Key Stage 4 courses, or the options process, please contact me directly at the Academy.

Yours sincerely,

Lucinda Rudd  
**Assistant Headteacher**