



YEAR 9 CHOICES PROGRAMME

2026 – 2028

"EVERYONE EXCELS EVERYDAY"

WELCOME

Mr McGinty: Welcome and Introduction

Ms Hobbs: The Choices Programme

Mr McGinty

Headteacher

KEY MESSAGES

- The majority of a pupil's timetable in years 10 and 11 is already determined.
- Significant changes over recent years in relation to qualifications: content and assessment.
- Schools should have responded to the changes to better support their pupils.

WHAT WILL YOUR TIMETABLE LOOK LIKE IN YEAR 10 AND 11?

Your timetable will consist of:

- **16 CORE LESSONS**
 - 5 x Maths
 - 5 x English
 - 5 x Science
 - 1 Core PE
 - plus, RISE
- **9 OPTIONS LESSONS**
 - 3 subjects, 3 times per week

WHAT ARE THE OPTION SUBJECTS?

Pupils must select **FIVE** subjects that they would prefer to study.

They will be **allocated THREE** of these five.

All pupils will study **AT LEAST ONE** EBacc subject.

All subjects are listed in the Options booklet.

EBACC SUBJECTS	FOUNDATION SUBJECTS	
Computer Science	Art and Design	Food Preparation & Nutrition
Geography	Construction	Health & Social Care
History	Dance	Music
Spanish	Design & Technology	Photography
Triple Science	Digital IT	Sport
	Drama	Religious Education
	Engineering	Statistics
	Enterprise	

EBACC SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECTS

Computer Science

Geography

History

Spanish

Triple Science

- All GCSE subjects.
- Facilitator subjects that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.
- Give pupils access to a full range of employment opportunities post-16.
- Recommended by the most prestigious universities.
- All pupils **MUST** study **at least one** of these subjects.

GCSE OR BTEC/VOCATIONAL LEVEL 1/2

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

Art and Design
Construction
Dance
Design & Technology
Digital IT
Drama
Engineering
Enterprise
Food Preparation & Nutrition
Health & Social Care
Music
Photography
Sport
Religious Education
Statistics

- Details in booklet which qualification is offered.
- Neither is considered better or worse than the other.
- Neither is easier or harder than the other.
- Look at the descriptions in the booklet – in particular the assessment.
- Will you perform better in final exams or assessed components throughout the course?

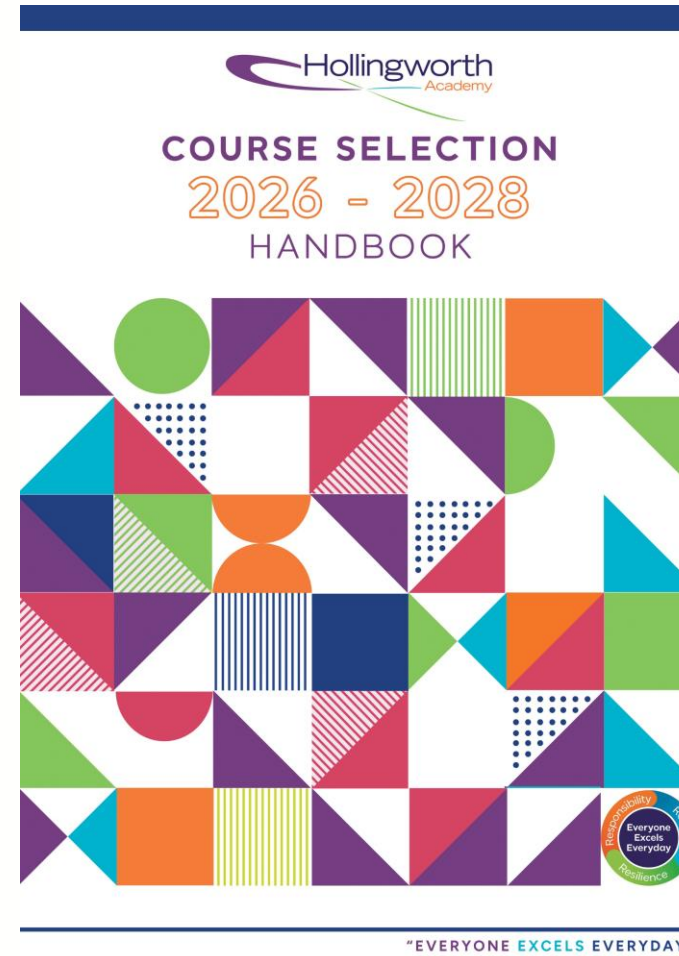
Ms Hobbs

Assistant Headteacher

OPTIONS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

EVENT	DATE
Year 9 Reports	Friday 5 th December 2025
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Thursday 11 th December 2025
Options Assembly	Monday 12 th January 2026
KS4 Information Talks	Monday 12 th January – Friday 16 th January 2026
GCSE Options Information Evening	Thursday 15th January 2026
Course Selection Handbook 2026 - 2028	Thursday 15 th January 2026
Choices Selection Form	Monday 19th January - Friday 30th January 2026
Individual Pupil Interviews	Half Term 4
Choices Confirmation Email	Friday 12 th June 2026

BEFORE CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS SUBJECTS



WHEN CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

DO

- ✓ Consider studying a broad range of subjects.
- ✓ Consider subjects that you have enjoyed in KS3.
- ✓ Consider subjects you have good A2Ls in.
- ✓ Consider which subjects you are successful at.
- ✓ If you already have clear ideas about your career / future take this into account – ask for advice.

DON'T

- X Pick subjects to be with your friends.
- X Pick rule out subjects because of the teacher.
- X Pick subjects because you think they are easy options – they aren't.
- X Pick subjects that you are not physically able to do.

OPTIONS FORM

Access on Google Classroom (Year 9 area) from **Monday 19th January 2026**.
Deadline: **Friday 30th January 2026**.

Preferred EBacc Subject	
--------------------------------	--

At least one of these choices MUST be an EBacc subject	2nd choice	
	3rd choice	
	4th choice	
	5th choice	

NOTES	
--------------	--

The order you fill in your subjects is very important.
You are ranking them in order of preference.

You cannot repeat subjects in different choices – you will be asked to re-do your form.

Add any relevant notes. This might be careers you are interested in.

EXAMPLE FORM

Preferred EBacc Subject	SPANISH		
At least one of these choices MUST be an EBacc subject	2nd choice	DANCE	
	3rd choice	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	
	4th choice	MUSIC	
	5th choice	GEOGRAPHY	
NOTES			

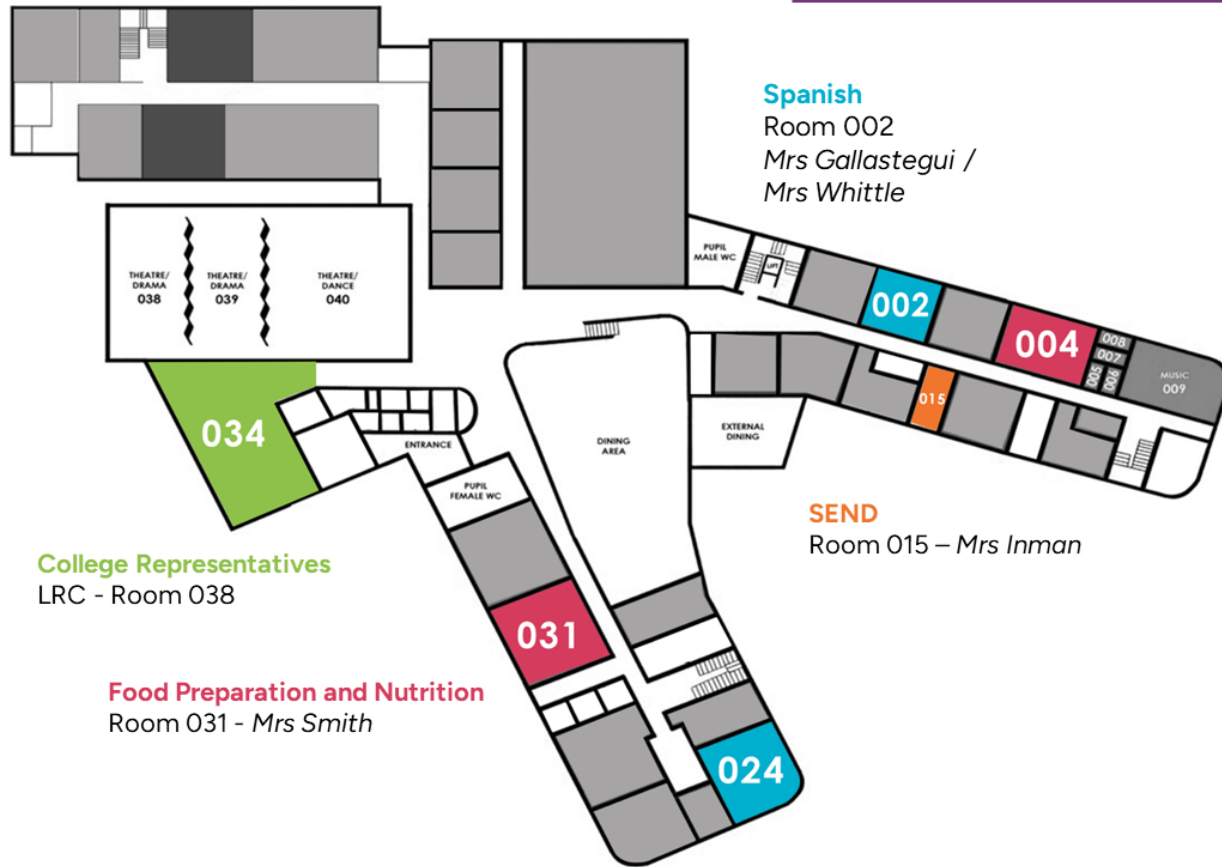
ALLOCATING SUBJECTS

- My aim is to fulfil as many preferences as possible.
- There are limits on class sizes and the number of classes that can run.
- There is a minimum class size to be viable.
- Sometimes, two subjects are in the same block so I can't allocate both, so I will look to other choices.
- If subjects are over-subscribed, your A2L will be considered. I will ask HODs and teachers how engaged you are in the lesson. They will want the pupil who works hardest, behaves well and meets deadlines in their class.

WHO TO TALK TO FOR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE THROUGHOUT THE OPTIONS PROGRAMME:

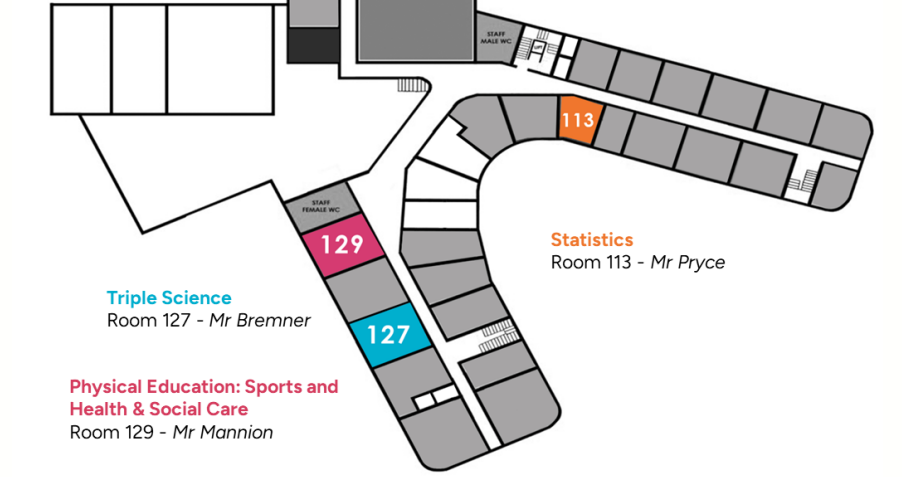
- Head of Year
- Ms Hobbs
- Heads of Department
- Subject Teachers
- Ms Lovelock lynseylovelock@positive-steps.org.uk

GROUND FLOOR MAP

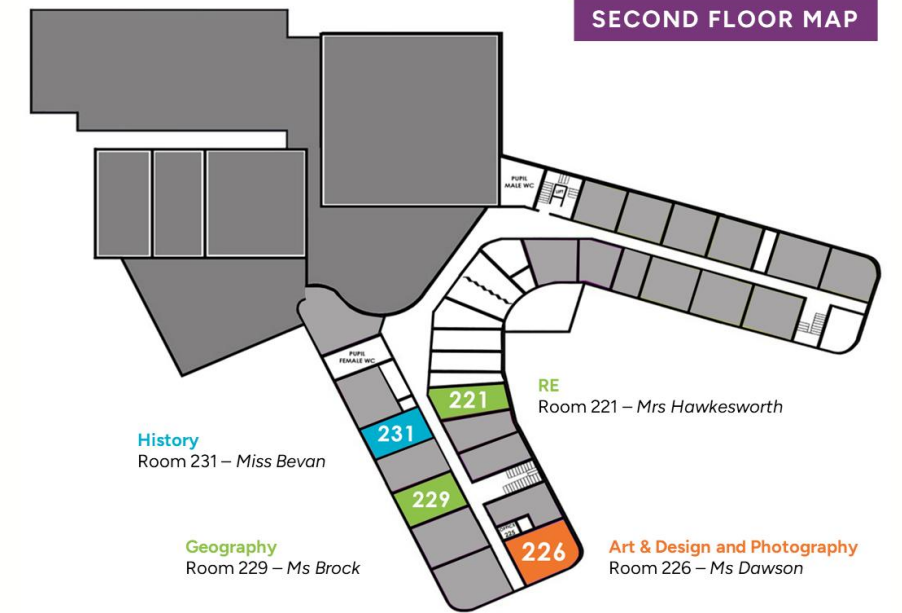


To find subject rooms, please refer to the floor maps on **pages 41–42** of the Choices Programme Booklet.

FIRST FLOOR MAP



SECOND FLOOR MAP



LOCAL COLLEGES

Representatives from the following colleges are in the LRC to offer additional advice and guidance about progression routes and entry requirements:

- Rochdale Training
- Rochdale Sixth Form College
- Oldham Sixth Form College
- The Oldham College
- Hopwood Hall