

PARENT AND CARER INFORMATION

Year 9 Options 2025-27



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

(1) WHAT DO STUDENTS HAVE TO DO?

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- PE (Core PE- not examined)



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

(2) E-BACC: WHAT DO STUDENTS HAVE TO DO?

At WLD High School, they have to choose at least one of the following:

- History
- Geography
- Computer Science
- Triple Science
- French
- German



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

(3) WHAT CAN STUDENTS CHOOSE TO DO?

Food and Nutrition

Art

Music

German

Drama

PE

RE

History

Computer Science

Triple Science

Geography

French



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

(4) WHAT CAN STUDENTS CHOOSE TO DO?

Business Studies

Engineering

Health and Social Care



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High School**

HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science Combined science (or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science)
- History or Geography
- A language Ancient or modern



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EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



Department
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EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

For information about which option choices your child should make to do the full EBacc suite of subjects, please read the government's information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>



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HOW SHOULD YOUR CHILD MAKE THEIR CHOICES?

- Which subjects do they enjoy?
- Which subjects are they good at?
- What do they want to do when they leave school?
- Knowledge, understanding & skills.
- Assessment



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

HOW SHOULD YOUR CHILD MAKE THEIR CHOICES?

- **Talk to people; teachers, form tutor, family, friends, students in Years 10 and 11.**
- **Careers Advisor- near to the library**
- **Think ahead- do some ‘finding out’**



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

Year 9 Option Blocks 2025-27		
OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C
French (GCSE)	History (GCSE)	French (GCSE)
Geography (GCSE)	German (GCSE)	Geography (GCSE)
Computer Science (GCSE)	Drama (GCSE)	History (GCSE)
History (GCSE)	Music (Tech Award)	Separate Science- Triple Science (GCSE)
Art (GCSE)	Engineering (Tech Award)	Computer Science (GCSE)
Health & Social Care (Tech Award)	Business Studies (GCSE)	Business Studies (GCSE)
PE (GCSE)	Religious Studies (GCSE)	Food and Nutrition (GCSE)
Sport Studies (Cambridge National)	Health and Social Care (Tech Award)	Engineering (Tech Award)

Please note that if there are insufficient numbers in some options, the subjects may not run.

For all subjects that are over-subscribed, students will be randomly selected for the course.

GCSE? NCFE? TECH AWARDS?



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

GCSE Grading

New Grading Structure

Old Grading Structure

9	A*
8	
7	A
<hr/>	
6	B
5	
Standard Pass → 4	C
<hr/>	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
<hr/>	
U	U

GCSE?

EXAMS



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

Level / Qualification Grade	Grade Equivalent
Level 2 / Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 / Distinction	7
Level 2 / Merit	5.5
Level 2 / Pass	4
Level 1 / Distinction	3
Level 1 / Merit	2
Level 1 / Pass	1.25

BTEC?

COURSEWORK & EXAMS



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

Grade and Performance Point Equivalences

WJEC Vocational Awards	Anticipated Performance Points [‡]	GCSE 9-1
Level 2 Distinction*	8.5	9
Level 2 Distinction	7	8
Level 2 Merit	5.5	7
Level 2 Pass	4	6
Level 1 Distinction*	3	5
Level 1 Distinction	2	4
Level 1 Merit	1.5	3
Level 1 Pass	1	2
		1

How do V Certs measure up?

V Certs are designed as technical alternatives to GCSEs. Below is our grading model, alongside both the old and new model for GCSE grading, so you can understand comparable achievement rates in other subjects.

Old GCSE grading structure	New GCSE grading structure	V Cert grading structure	
A*	9	Level 2	D* 8.5
A	8		D 7
B	7		M 5.5
C	6		P 4
D	5	Level 1	D* 3
E	4		D 2
F	3		M 1.5
G	2		P 1
U	1	NYA (Not Yet Achieved)	
U	U		

NCFE?
COURSEWORK
& EXAMS



Walton-le-Dale
High School

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND MATHS- GRADE 4

- Maths and English are important because they are a requirement for most courses, apprenticeships, jobs and university degrees.
- Students will usually need at least a grade 4 and above in Maths and English. With a grade 4 and above in Maths and English students will have a much greater number of opportunities open to them.
- **Whether they go into an apprenticeship, sixth form or college they will need to continue to study Maths and English alongside the other courses they are doing until they are 18 or achieve a grade 4.**

HOW MANY TECHNICAL AWARD QUALIFICATIONS CAN MY CHILD DO?

When your child is choosing their post-16 pathway, it is likely that the college entry requirements will be GCSEs at a particular grade (e.g. five GCSEs at grade 5). With this in mind, because we want students to have the best chance that they can have to achieve these entry requirements, we advise students to opt for one technical award (BTEC/NCFE) with the rest of their option choices being GCSEs.

Please check local college websites to find out what their specific entry requirements are for the courses your child is interested in. If you have any questions about your child choosing two tech award qualifications then contact Mrs Brown for a discussion.

The technical awards that we offer in school are:

- Cambridge National- Sports Studies
- Cambridge National- Health and Social Care
- NCFE Engineering
- Technical Award- Music

Support your child by looking at local colleges and apprenticeships to see what the entry requirements are for their next steps after they leave school.



CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE

Our general College entry criteria is:

- **A-Levels:** At least five grade 5s or above at GCSE.
- **HE* Programme:** At least five grade 7s or above at GCSE.
- **BTEC Level 3:** At least five grade 4s or above at GCSE.
- **T-Levels:** At least two grade 5s and three grade 4s or above at GCSE, including at least a grade 4 in Maths and English Language GCSE
- **Mixed Programme (combining A-Levels with BTECs):** At least two grade 5s and three grade 4s or above at GCSE.
- **Level 2 BTEC:** At least four grade 3s and at least a grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language and/or Maths.

The logo for Runshaw College is displayed on a red rectangular background. The text 'RUNSHAW' is on the top line and 'COLLEGE' is on the bottom line, both in white, bold, uppercase letters. A white horizontal line is positioned below the word 'COLLEGE'.

R U N S H A W
C O L L E G E

A Level Programme Entry Minimum Requirements (2024/25)

Overall requirements for the A Level Programme at Runshaw College remain as **5 x B grade equivalent (5 x Grade 5 or B)**, in 5 separate national curriculum subjects. It is expected that most students will study 3 A-level subjects

Vocational Programme Entry Requirements (2024/2025)

- **Level 1** – 1 x GCSE at Grade 3, 1 x GCSE at Grade 2 & Maths or English Language at Grade 2 and Grade 1 in the other
- **Level 2** – 4 x GCSE at Grade 3, Maths or English Lang or Lit at Grade 3 and Grade 2 in the others (1 Year Course)

SPRING 2025: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- **Friday 24th Jan 2025: Launch Assembly: Options Process**
- **WC Mon 27th Jan 2025: Option subject talks every day in morning assembly**
- **Thurs 6th February: Year 9 Progress Evening and Options Information**
- **Tues 25th February: Year 9 Options Assembly**
- **WC 3rd March: Final options submitted in school on a system called 'options online'**
- **Students will have a 1:1 guidance conversation with SLT about their choices**