

# Year 9 Options' Evening

Thursday 30 January, 2025

WELCOME YEAR 9 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!  
PLEASE TAKE A SEAT AND TURN YOUR PHONES TO SILENT.

## Future

**Many of today's  
in demand jobs  
did not exist 10  
years ago**

❖ A changing world

❖ New technologies, eg AI

❖ Influencers

❖ Sustainability

❖ Security



The image shows a classroom environment. In the foreground, two red chairs with black armrests are visible. The background is a solid green wall. On the left side, a portion of a whiteboard is visible. The text is centered on the green wall.

**We are currently  
preparing students  
for jobs that  
don't yet exist...**

using technologies  
**that haven't  
been invented...**



**in order to  
solve problems  
we don't even know  
are problems yet.**



# PM plans to 'unleash AI' across UK to boost growth

## How the AI plan could affect you

Among the government's proposals are:

- AI will be used by the public sector to enable its workers to spend less time doing admin and more time delivering services.
- Several "AI Growth Zones" around the UK will be created, involving big building projects and new jobs.
- AI will be fed through cameras around the country to inspect roads and spot potholes that need fixing
- Teachers and small business owners were highlighted as two groups that could start using AI for things like faster planning and record-keeping.
- AI is already being used in UK hospitals for important tasks such as diagnosing cancer more quickly and it will continue to be used to support the NHS.



GETTY IMAGES

The government said AI will boost public sector productivity, while also helping teachers and small business owners

# Life beyond Heron Hall

Remain in education or training until they are 18.

As adults your children will probably change career 2-3 times during their adult lives and have 10-14 jobs by the age of 38.

**The days of a lifelong career with one company or within one industry have gone.**



# Preparation

**How are we preparing your children  
for this uncertain future?**

All students at Heron Hall Academy are entitled to a curriculum that is:

- ✓ Broad and Balanced
- ✓ Relevant
- ✓ Challenging
- ✓ Enjoyable
- ✓ Personalised

# All students will study the core subjects:

- ✓ **English (Language & Literature)**
- ✓ **Maths**
- ✓ **Science (Triple or Combined)**
- ✓ **PE (Non-assessed)**
- ✓ **RE GCSE**
- ✓ **PSHE (Non assessed)**

# The number of subjects your child will study...

**1x English Language GCSE**

**1x English Literature GCSE**

**1x Mathematics GCSE (some may also do Further Maths & Statistics)**

**2 x Science GCSEs *OR* 3 x Science GCSEs**

**1x RE GCSE**

**3x Option subjects**



# Important points:

- **Computer Science – suited to Maths sets 1&2**
- **'Natural aptitude' in Sports Studies and Music**
- **Balance between exam and coursework components**
- **Combined or Triple Science is decided by your Science teachers**
- **We also enter students for Community Languages**
- **ESOL for students identified by the EAL department**

**For example:**

**Computer Science** requires them to be able to think logically, solve problems and have a keen attention to detail. Maths is important.

**BTEC Sports Studies** looks at different sectors within the sports industry, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes.

# Meeting individual needs

**Triple Sciences and Further Maths & Statistics for some.**

**A bespoke programme with some 'guided choice' for some students for whom a full programme of GCSE courses might not be appropriate. You will still study 8 GCSEs or equivalent.**

**We will always meet and discuss any bespoke provision with students and parents.**

# BTECs and TECHNICAL AWARDS

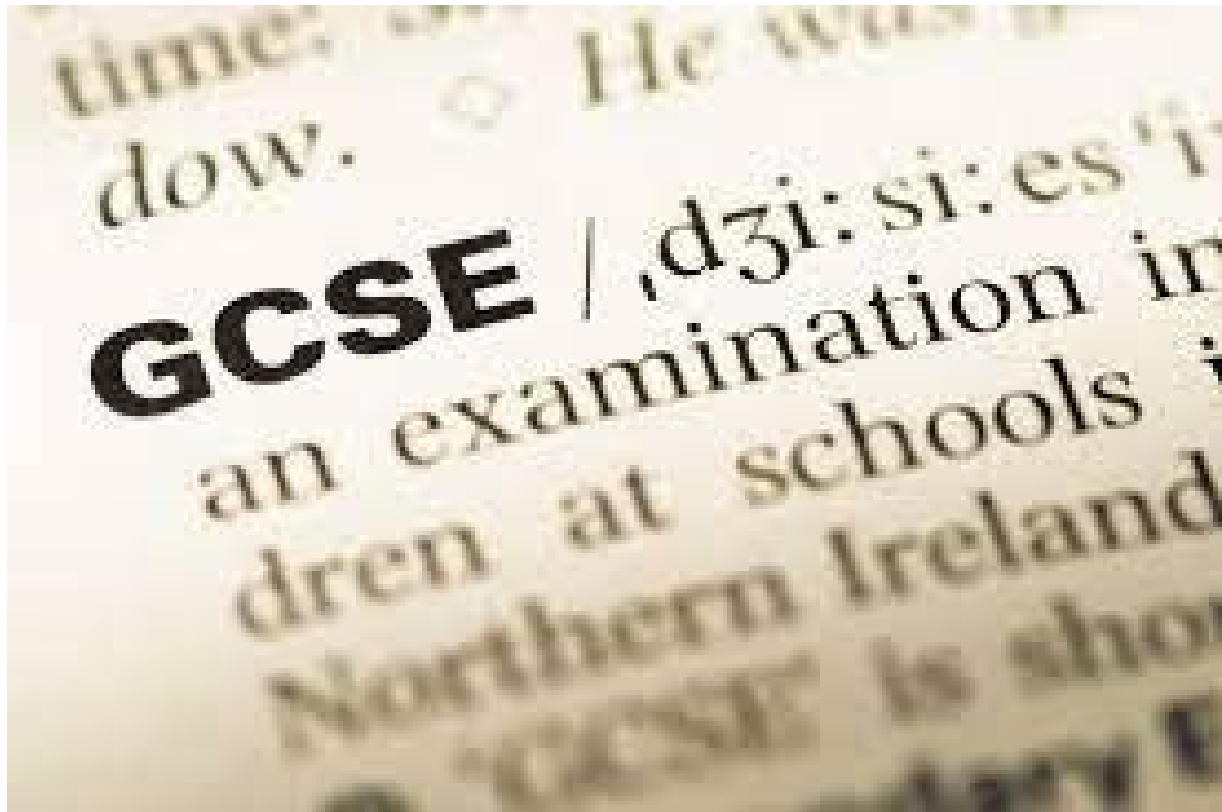


Mainly coursework but some have an exam element. Have a vocational focus and tailored to industries and careers – Sport, Technology, Health Care.

These are worth the same as a GCSE.



# Level 2 qualifications - GCSEs



Mainly examined, written subjects though some have coursework.

- Lots of content
- Tiers
- Linear

# Grades

Previous system A\*-G

New 9-1

Strong pass Grade 5  
(Level 2 Merit)

Standard pass Grade 4  
(Level 2 Pass)

## GCSE Old and New Grades

Old Grades	New Grades	New Vocational Grades
A*	9	LEVEL 2 Distinction * 8.5
A	8	LEVEL 2 Distinction 7.0
B	7	LEVEL 2 Distinction 7.0
C	6	LEVEL 2 Merit 5.5
	5	LEVEL 2 Merit 5.5
D	4	LEVEL 2 Pass 4.0
	3	LEVEL 2 Pass 4.0
E	2	LEVEL 1 Distinction 3.0
F	1	LEVEL 1 Merit 2.0
G	1	LEVEL 1 Merit 2.0
U	1	LEVEL 1 Pass 1.25 Or 1.75
U	U	

# Performance measures

*Before...*

**5 or more A\* to C** including English and Maths  
is not the main measure of attainment

*Now...*

Grade **4** ('standard pass') and **5** ('strong pass')  
in English and Maths

You should be aiming for **8** strong passes.

# Grade 4 and 5 in English and Maths

- **Grades 4/5 in English and Maths** remain a **key standard**
- It will continue to be a **key minimum** requirement for many courses, apprenticeships & jobs
- Grade 5 is aligned with the average performance from **high flying** countries in international league tables

# The Options process: support & advice

Students need to keep their choices **open**

It is possible to take **most A-levels** in subjects if they have not studied them at GCSE level.

# Who can your child ask for help?

Form tutors

On-line

Advice

Subject  
teachers

Careers  
guidance

# Making the choice

**CHOICE**

# What should influence choice?

**Talent**

**Enjoyment**

**Teacher advice**

**Career plans**

**Balance of subjects**

**Recommendation from subjects**



[Choosing GCSE options - 19 questions to ask yourself \(youthemployment.org.uk\)](https://youthemployment.org.uk)

 **CAUTION**

**My friends  
I like the teacher  
It's easy**

# What's next?

**One-to-one interviews for some**

**Some have been receiving careers interview**

**Careers activities during form time**

**Subject talks in lessons/assemblies**

**Submit the online Options form by 6th February.**

# Advice on completing the form

Block X subjects	Block Y subjects	Block Z subjects
Preference 1	Preference 1	Preference 1
Preference 2	Preference 2	Preference 2

They are preferences only at this stage.

Final choices depend on student numbers and staffing.

We will write to you in the Spring to confirm.

# How to access the form?

A screenshot of the Heron Hall Academy website. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Admissions, Parents, Clubs, Policies, News, Calendar, Learning, Sixth Form, North Star, and Contact. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area displays the word "Options" in large, colorful, 3D block letters. Below this, there is a section titled "Year 9 GCSE options meeting - Thursday, 30 January, 5-7pm (5.30pm presentation)".

Year 9 GCSE options meeting - Thursday, 30 January, 5-7pm (5.30pm presentation)

Year 9 marks a pivotal stage in a student's academic journey.

It's the time when they start making crucial decisions regarding the subjects they will pursue for their GCSEs.

Please see our letter to parents about the evening [here](#).

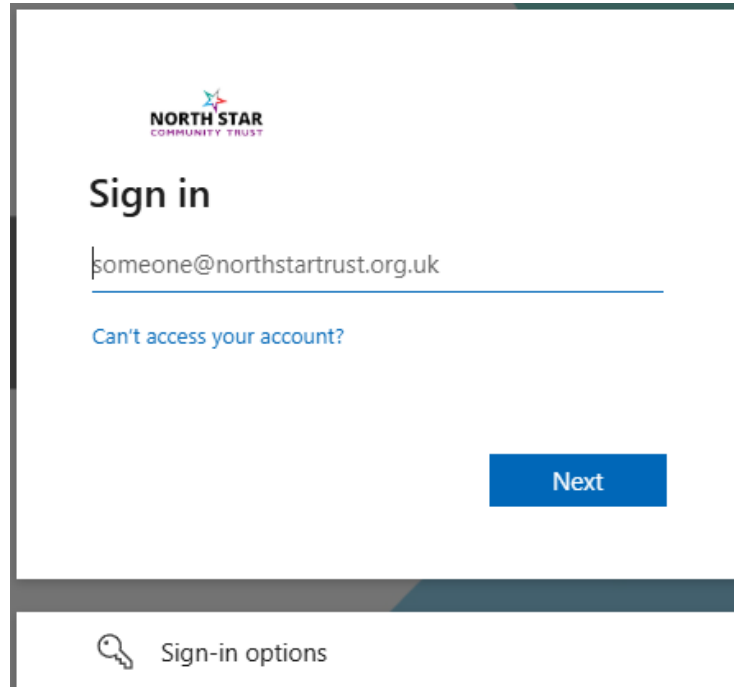
We look forward to welcoming you

Please try to attend the very important presentation at 5.30pm.

[Year 9 options | Heron Hall Academy](#)

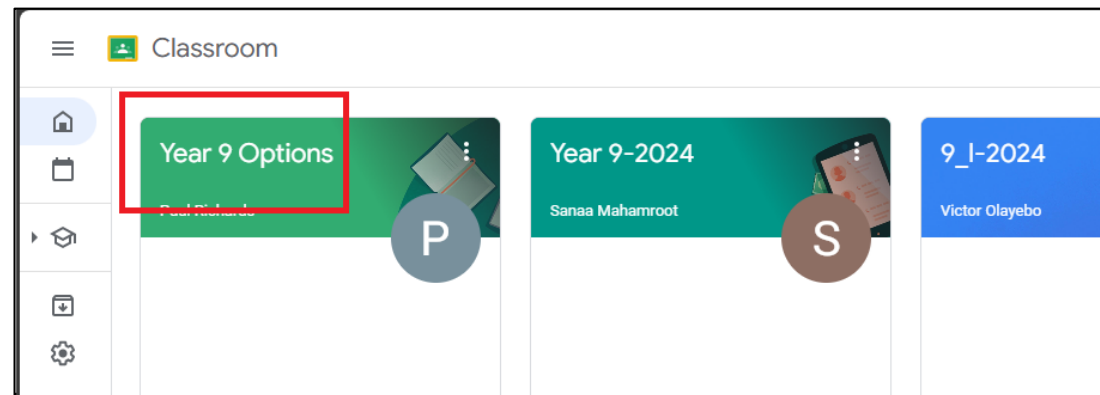
# How to access the form?

## STEP 1: Use your school email and password to login to your google classroom



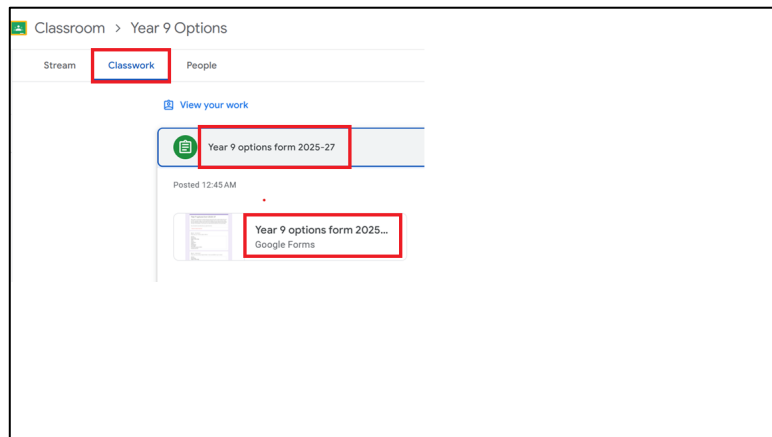
The screenshot shows the sign-in page for North Star Community Trust. At the top left is the logo with a star and the text "NORTH STAR COMMUNITY TRUST". Below the logo is the heading "Sign in". There is a text input field containing the email address "someone@northstartrust.org.uk". Below the input field is a blue link that says "Can't access your account?". At the bottom right of the main content area is a blue button labeled "Next". At the bottom left of the page is a key icon followed by the text "Sign-in options".

## STEP 2: Click on the Year 9 Options classroom

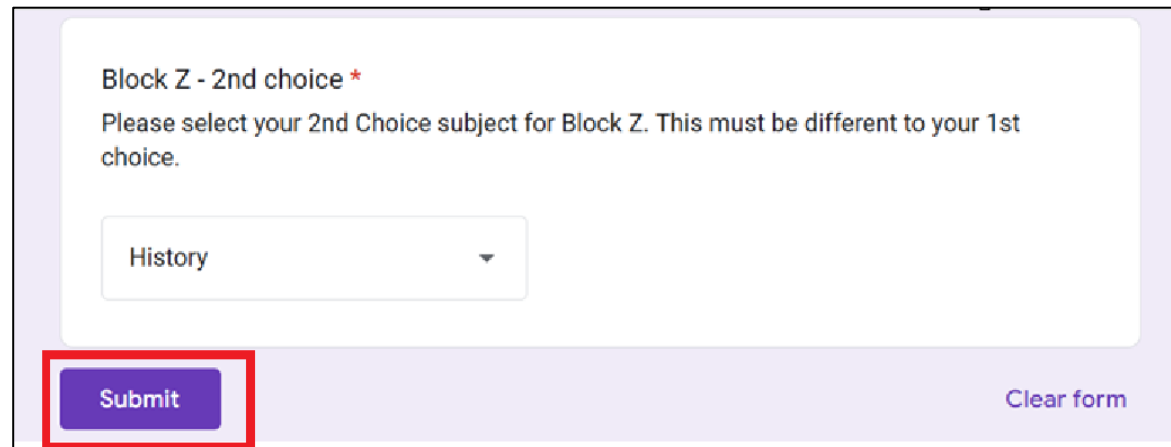


# How to access the form?

**STEP 3: Once you are in inside the classroom, click on the 'Classwork' tab and open the 'Year 9 options 2025-27' form**



**STEP 4: Complete the form by choosing your 3 options – 1st and 2nd preference, and then submit**

A screenshot of a form titled 'Block Z - 2nd choice \*'. Below the title, it says 'Please select your 2nd Choice subject for Block Z. This must be different to your 1st choice.' There is a dropdown menu with 'History' selected. At the bottom left, there is a purple 'Submit' button with a red box around it. At the bottom right, there is a 'Clear form' link.

# The Subjects

- Ask...
  - What will I study?
  - What are the assessments?
  - How do you make the course rich?
  - Where could it take me?
  - Do you think I will be good on the course?

# What have we already done?

- ✓ **Course booklet online**
- ✓ **Assembly on subjects they don't study currently**
- ✓ **Careers support and guidance – 1-to-1 interview, trips and form time**
- ✓ **Some subjects have started delivering course information**



# What can you do as a Parent?

**Look through the options booklet together.**

**Discuss their current grades and what they enjoy.**

**Encourage students to think ahead to Sixth Form or College and look at the options they will need.**

# What can you do as a parent?

**Have conversations with them about the type of jobs they might want to do when they are older.**

**Ensure the Options online form is correctly completed & submitted by 6th February.**

# Thank you

## You are free to see the subjects!

- Core subjects are in the Megalab:  
English, Maths, Science and RE.
- Option subjects are in the canteen.

**Submit your Options form by 6th  
February.**