



Year 8 into 9 Curriculum Choices 2026

Mr Norman – Deputy Headteacher

Our Curriculum

Is **broad** –
keeping options
open and
developing a
great range of
skills

Is **rigorous** –
meeting the
highest
standards and
in-line with
national
expectations

Is delivered by
**subject
specialists** –
inspiring
students and
supporting
progression

What do we aim to see?

All students making great progress

All students achieving outcomes that make them proud

All students enjoying their learning and feeling inspired about their future choices

All students being prepared for life after SWCHS



Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)



Core subjects:

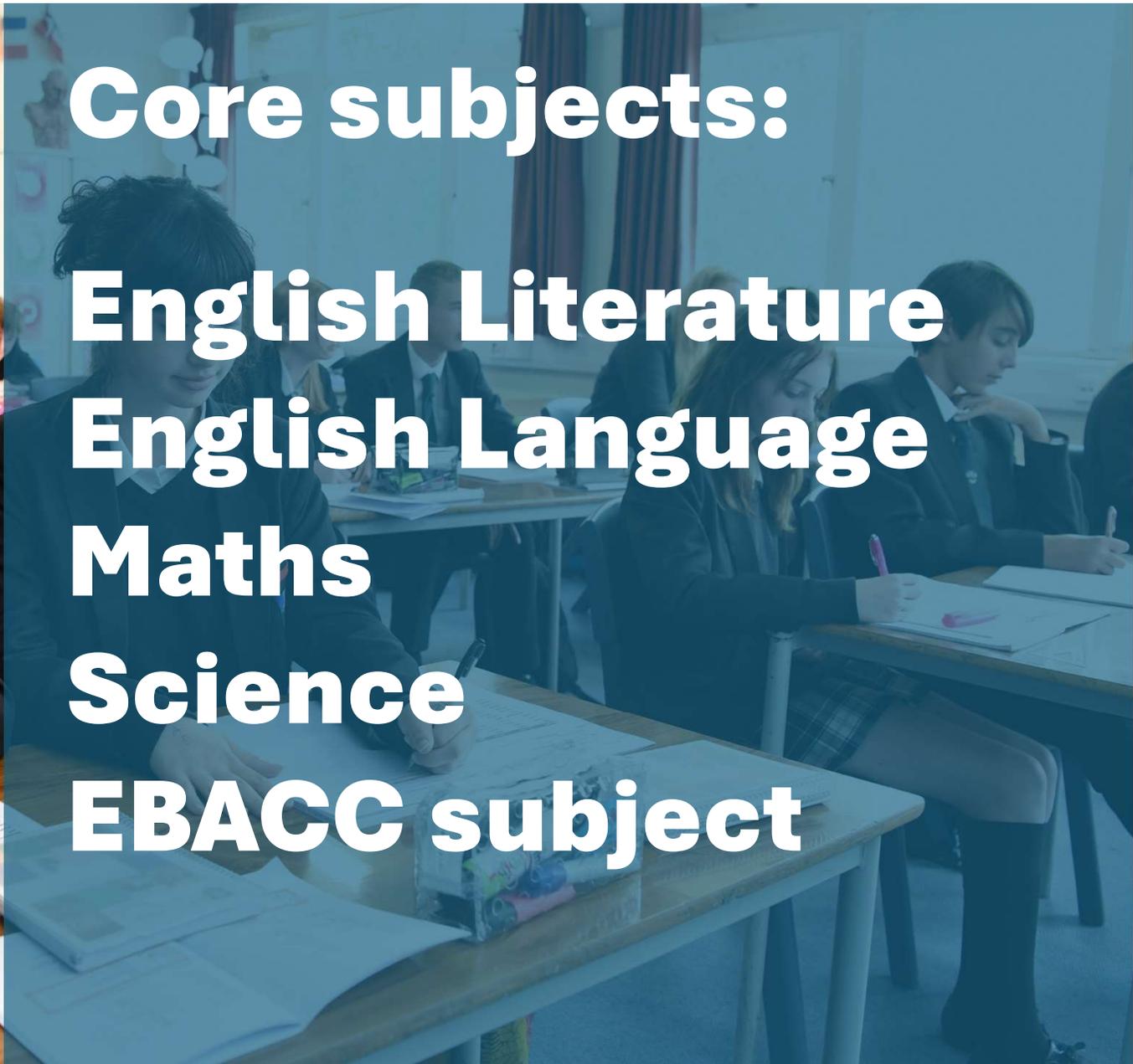
English Literature

English Language

Maths

Science

EBACC subject



**Non Examined Core
subjects:**

PSHE & RSE

Core Computing

Careers & Finance

PE

Core RPE



3 Further choices:

- **History**
- **Geography**
- **RPE GCSE**
- **Computer Science**
- **Digital Information Technology**
- **Health & Social Care**
- **Drama**



Other choices:

- **Food Preparation & Nutrition**
- **Product Design**
- **Art***
 - **3D Art**
 - **Textiles**
 - **Art & Design**
 - **Graphics**



Other choices:

- **Music**
- **Dance**
- **PE GCSE**
- **Business**
- **German**
- **French**
- **Latin***
- **Spanish***



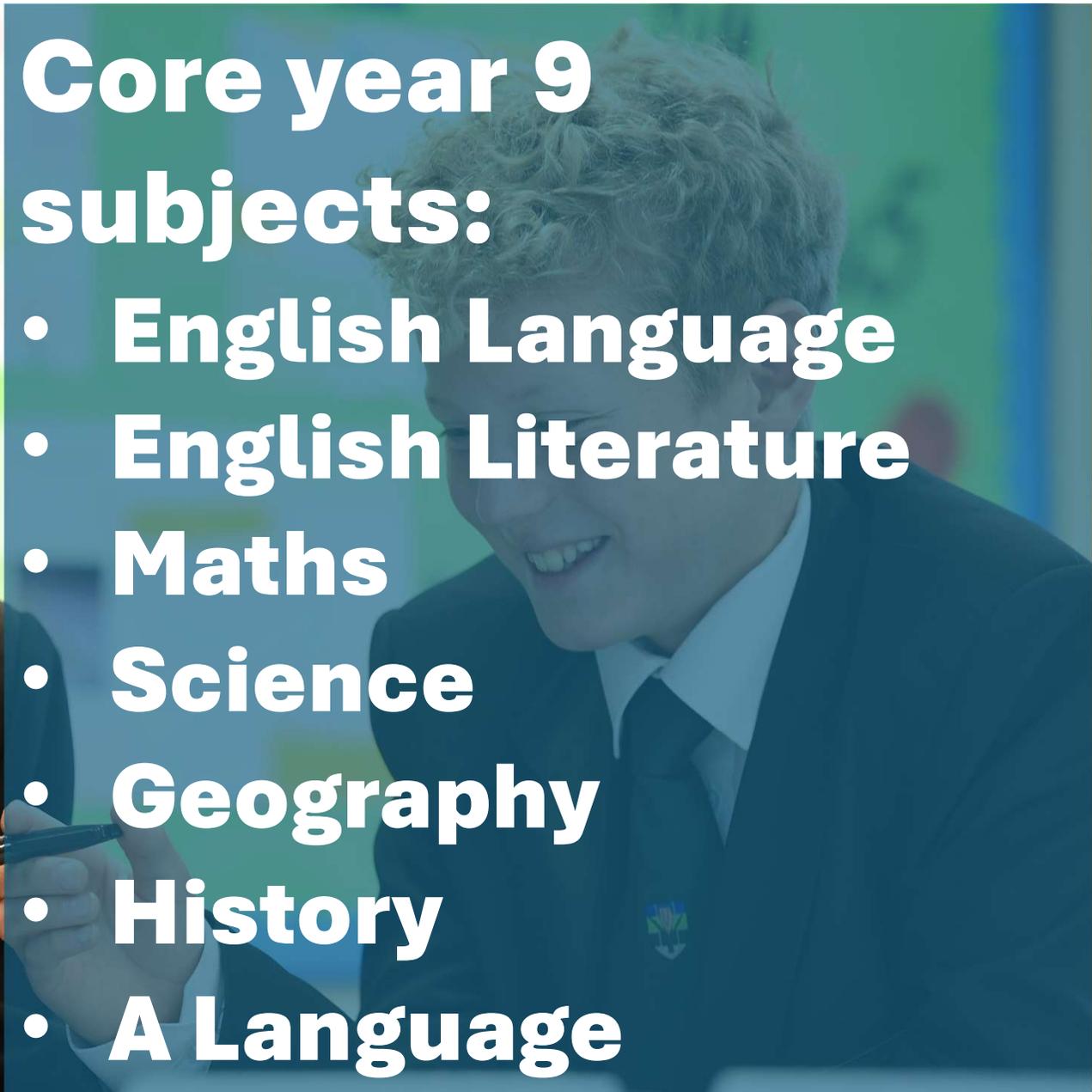


**So, what about year
9?**



Core year 9 subjects:

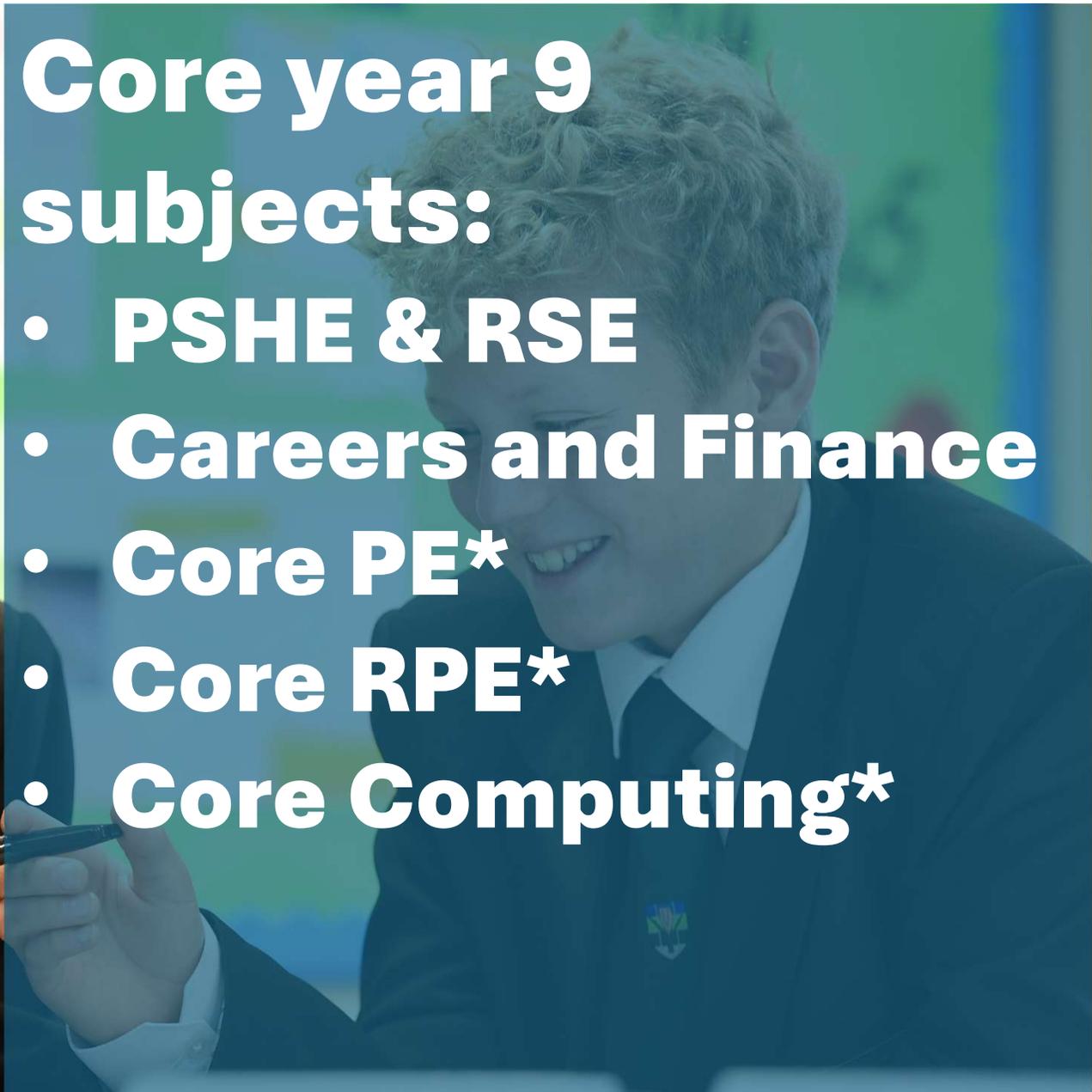
- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Maths**
- **Science**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **A Language**





Core year 9 subjects:

- **PSHE & RSE**
- **Careers and Finance**
- **Core PE***
- **Core RPE***
- **Core Computing***





Core year 9 choices: One Creative choice

- **Art & Design #**
- **Computer Science**
- **Digital Information Technology**
- **Food Preparation & Nutrition**
- **Music**
- **Textiles #**
- **3D Design (NB This is the ceramics course) #**
- **Dance**
- **Drama**
- **Graphics #**
- **Product Design**



Core year 9 choices: Two other choices

Art & Design #

3D Design (NB This is the ceramics course) #

Business

Computer Science

Dance

Digital Information Technology

Drama

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Health & Social Care

Music

Physical Education

Product Design

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

Textiles #

Graphics #

French

German

**How will their
choices now
affect their
future?**



Thinking Ahead

- **Students can only take forward ONE art subject to year 10**
- **Students can only study one of Latin or Spanish (if eligible)**
- **Students need to have studied the subject in Y9 to continue with it in Y10**



**We offer 45
different Sixth Form
courses... nearly all
of which can be
accessed from
the SWCHS
Core.**

For example:

Computing

Drama

Health and
Social Care

Classical
Civilisation

Business

Geography

History

Psychology

Criminology

**Keep your
options broad!**



A young man and woman are crouching in a grassy field under a blue sky with clouds. The man is holding a clear plastic cup, and the woman is pointing at it. They appear to be engaged in a science experiment or a discussion. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Making the right choices

Don't choose a subject because of a teacher

Avoid being overly influenced by friends' decisions

We recommend that students only take ONE new subject

Options Process:

- **26/1 Options Assembly**
- **27/1 Parent Presentation**
- **2/2 Options Booklet Available**
- **2/3 Year 8 PC published**
- **12/3 + 19/3 Parents Evening**
- **19/3-24/3 SIMS Options open to choose**





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Messages

0 New

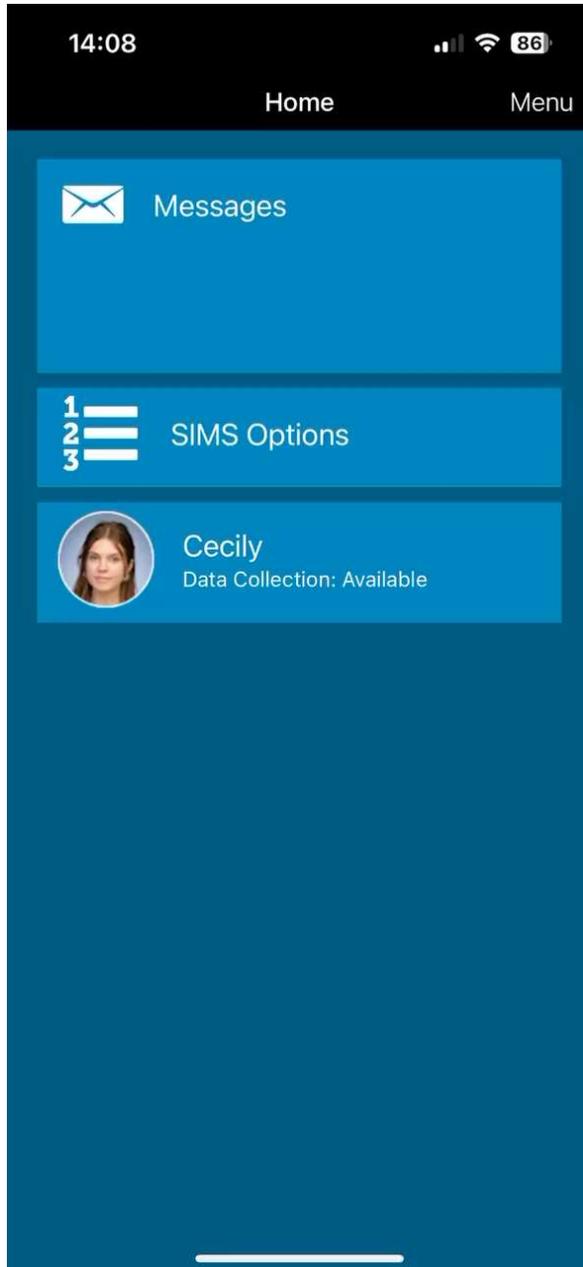


SIMS Options



Cecily

Data Collection: Available



Summary:

- Choose 1 language (if you are choosing Latin or Spanish, choose this first, you can choose an additional language later)
- Choose one creative course
- Choose two open choices
- Choose one reserve from the open choices
- You can reorder the preference (NB in the case of oversubscription/timetable clashes, there are a range of factors that determine the outcome)
- Tick the parent/carer approval
- Press save



Languages

Languages for all

- In today's global economy, companies are increasingly dealing across international markets and need good linguists. This is also a skill for life.
- Languages are very important here at SWCHS and are part of the core provision:
 - Everyone does 2 languages in Years 7 & 8
 - Everyone does at least 1 language in Year 9
 - Most students opt to take a language for GCSE



Languages Year 9

- During their final year at Key Stage 3, students study at least one language.
- Students have the following options:
 - To continue with one language
 - Students will get 5 language lessons per fortnight.
 - To continue with two languages
 - For one language, students will get 5 lessons within their timetable during normal curriculum time.
 - For their second language (French or German) students have 3 hours within their normal timetable in Year 9 only. They also must attend two twilight sessions, one hour per week, after school on a Friday.
 - If students decide to continue with two languages into Year 10, all lessons will be taught within normal curriculum time.

Language Options

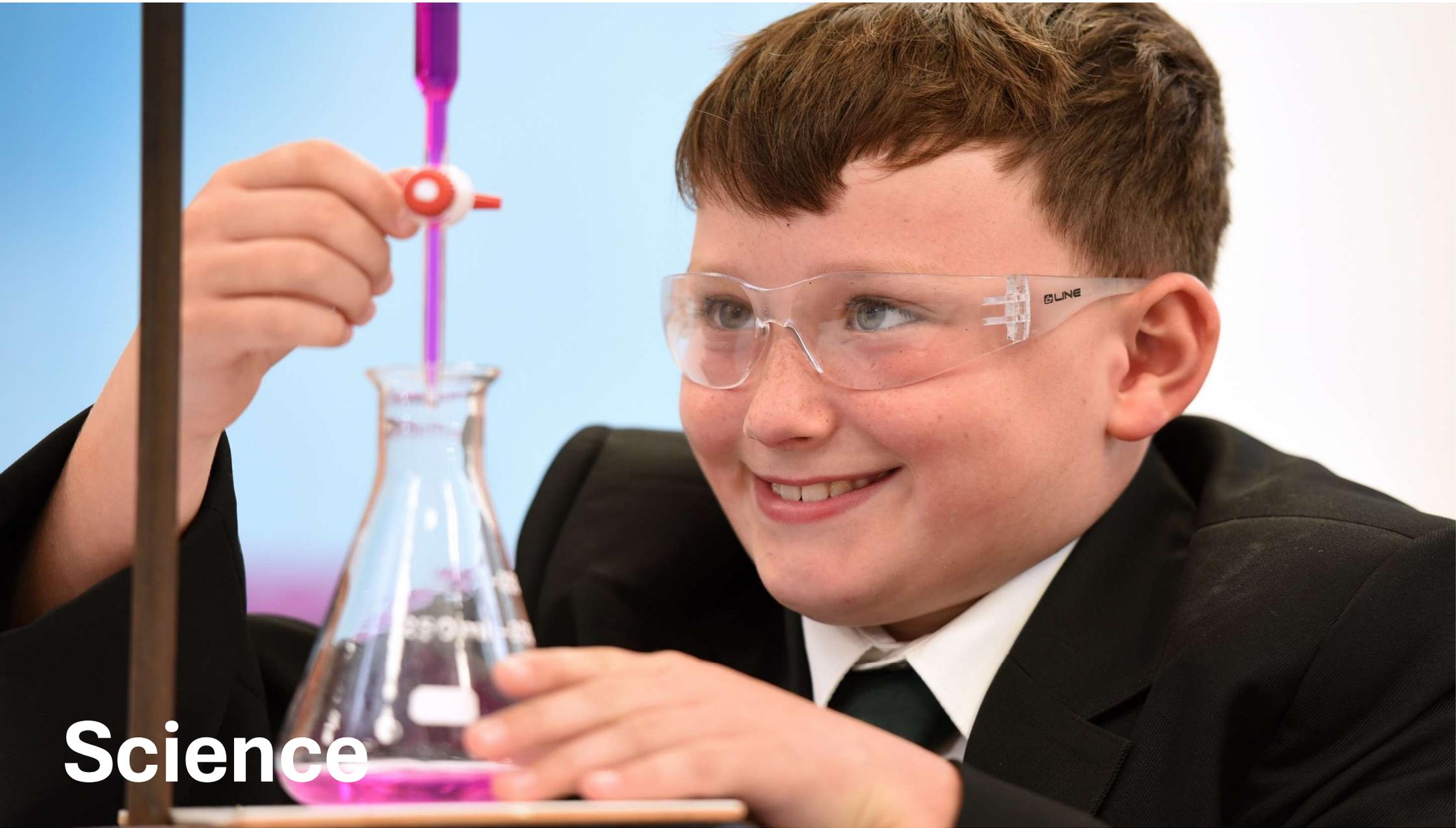
- Students can choose to study one or two of the following languages:
 - GCSE French
 - GCSE German
 - GCSE Spanish*
 - GCSE Latin*
- Spanish and Latin are taught from scratch. This means the pace of the course is more demanding and faster, but will suit students who enjoy languages and a challenge. Therefore, students must demonstrate a clear aptitude in their language learning in Years 7 and 8 and **MUST** have achieved a Forecast Attainment Band of at least **ABOVE** in one language in their Year 8 Spring Progress Check in order to study GCSE Spanish.
- We want to make sure that students make the right choice for them and would cope with the demands of a fast-paced GCSE Spanish or Latin course.

Language Options – Native Speakers

- It is generally suggested that fluent native speakers take a different language to their home language, but this can be flexible.
- Depending on the language, there may well be an opportunity to do the GCSE qualification in their native language without doing the full GCSE course.
- Students may have to enter as private candidates if we do not have the relevant in-house expertise to conduct the Speaking examination.
- There are GCSE exams in the following subjects: French, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Bengali, Urdu, Modern Hebrew, Chinese and Panjabi.
- Please contact the schools Exams Officer in the first instance if you want your child to take a GCSE in one of the above languages.

Enrichment Spanish

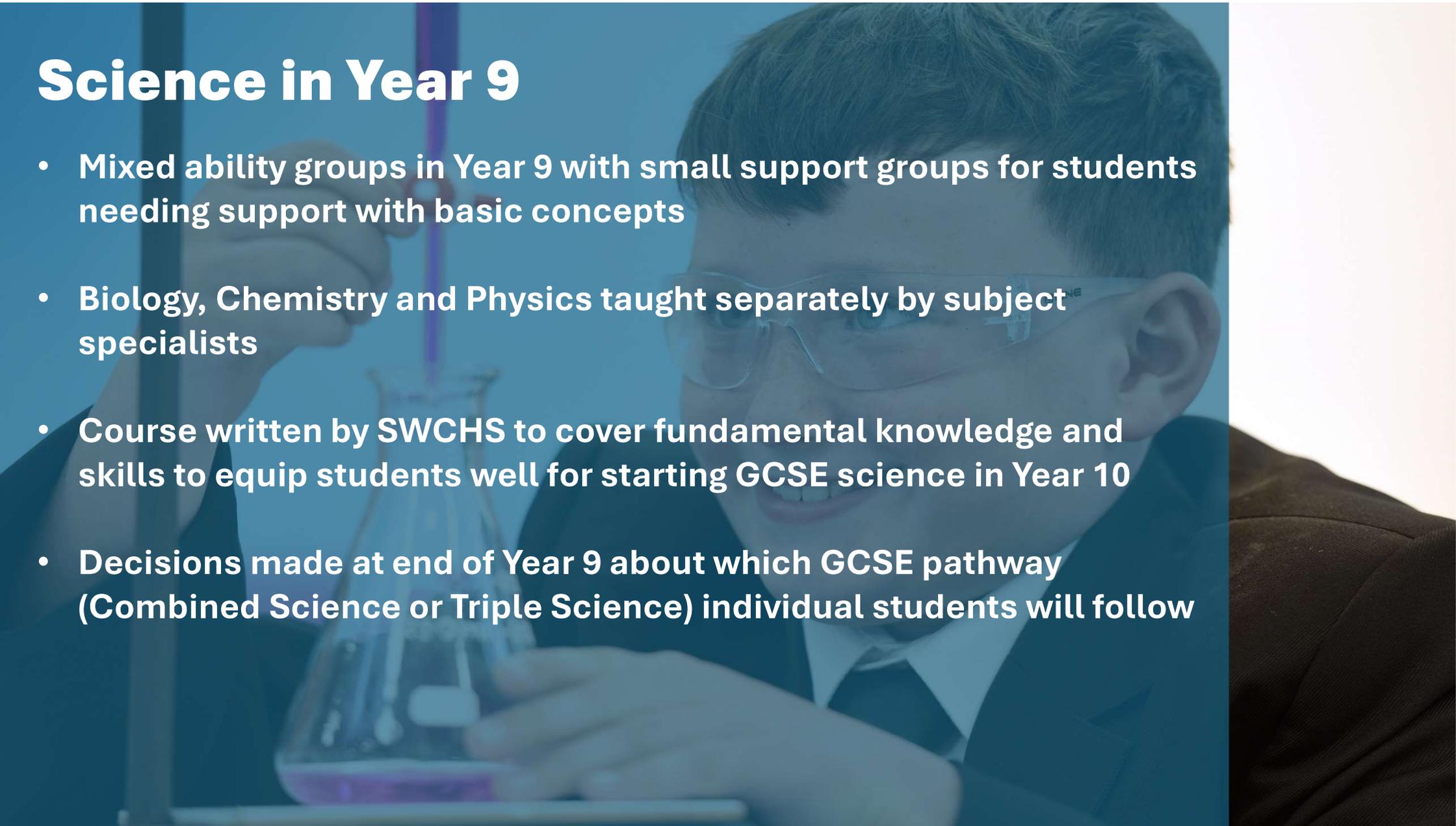
- A very small minority of students will be approached with a view to doing a one-year Spanish Enrichment course in Year 9. This is not to be confused with the GCSE Spanish course.
- The Languages team work with the Year team and the Learning Support team to identify individuals, who we feel would benefit from such a programme. Students who have done this course have found this very enjoyable and rewarding.
- Students who follow this course will NOT continue with Spanish beyond Year 9.



Science

Science in Year 9

- **Mixed ability groups in Year 9 with small support groups for students needing support with basic concepts**
- **Biology, Chemistry and Physics taught separately by subject specialists**
- **Course written by SWCHS to cover fundamental knowledge and skills to equip students well for starting GCSE science in Year 10**
- **Decisions made at end of Year 9 about which GCSE pathway (Combined Science or Triple Science) individual students will follow**



Key Stage 4 Science (Years 10 and 11)

	Combined Science	Triple Science
Who is it for?	The vast majority of students at SWCHS and nationally	The students with the highest aptitude and interest in science who want extra challenge and opportunities to gain a deeper understanding (2 classes – max 66 students)
Course structure / teaching	Topic-based with biology, chemistry and physics topics delivered by subject specialists.	Taught as separate subjects - Biology, Chemistry and Physics delivered by subject specialists
GCSEs awarded	2 GCSEs with grades up to 9/9 (Higher Tier) up to 5/5 (Foundation Tier)	3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Timetable allocation	10 hours per fortnight	12 hours per fortnight (extra lesson on Friday afternoon introduced in 2021-22)
Equips for A-Level Sciences?	Yes	Yes



Maths

Curriculum

At home

Assessments

Enthusiasts

Three easy wins

- Be positive about maths

'Maths is hard'  'Maths is about noticing and reasoning'

'I'm not a maths person'  'No one is born good at maths. Anyone can learn.'

- Be calm and open minded

Parents' maths anxiety reduced their child's learning of maths... **The parents' maths knowledge did not turn out to have any impact, only their level of math anxiety.**

Maloney et al., 2015

- Discuss estimates, distances and times, costs, measurements, and jobs that use maths

Curriculum

At home

Assessments

Enthusiasts

Homework

- Support videos for the entire Year 8 course Dr Frost

Maths

86 Find terms of a sequence given a term-to-term rule.

Mastery: 0/100

Practise

OR NARROW DOWN

VIDEO DIFFICULTY

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> E86: Exam Practice: Find terms of a sequence given a term-to-term rule. | Example |  | 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K86a: Find a later term in an arithmetic sequence. | Example |  | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K86b: Find a later term in a geometric sequence. | Example |  | 2 |

- How did your teacher solve this problem?
- What do your notes say?
- Can you explain it to me in your own words?
- Shall we look it up together on DrFrostMaths?
- Can we use these counters to represent the problem?

Maths in Year 9

- Teaching and learning continues in line with years 7 and 8
- There are no major grouping changes going from Y8 to Y9
- Maths tiering decisions are not finalised until students are well into key stage 4 in year 10 (and, in some borderline cases, not until after the Y11 mocks).





English

English Literature and Language

- Two GCSEs.
- No tiers of entry.
- Assessing reading, writing and engagement with a range of literature.



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