



Key Stage 4 Information evening 2026



Welcome





Aim of the presentation



- To gain a greater understanding of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum at Walsall Academy
- To be able to make informed decisions on subject preferences
- To understand the next steps in selecting subjects to study



Academy Curriculum Vision

Walsall Academy seeks to empower our students through engagement in education, to unlock their full personal and academic potential, to become positive leaders of their own learning and valued citizens.

- A broad and balanced curriculum
- Students to reach their potential and gain good qualifications
- Students to be fully prepared for employment of the future
- Students to develop character and to become leaders of their own learning
- **Everybody is a Somebody**



Character education

To support students in their learning and future careers

- Skills for life
- Learning to learn
- Revision techniques
- Independent learning skills
- Employability skills and careers
- PSHE and citizenship



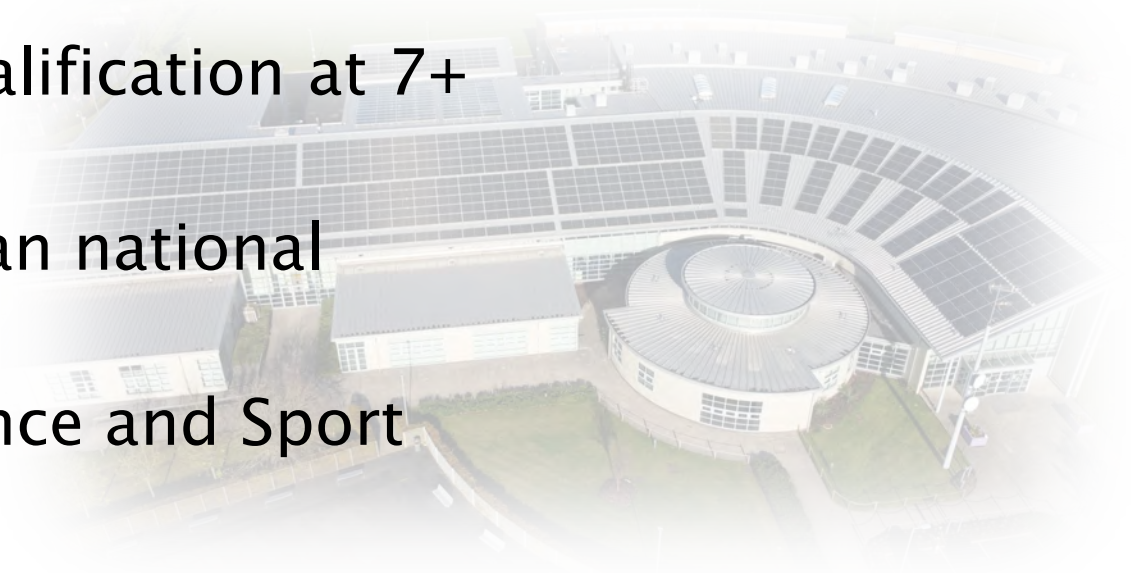
Activities will be conducted both on and off site, to provide engaging and stimulating experiences



KS4 Results 2025

The achievement of academic qualifications is important. We work hard with students to ensure they can reach their potential.

- Academic results have improved every year since 2023
- In 2025, 59% of students achieved Grade 4+ in English and Maths
- In 2025, 42% of students gained at least one qualification at 7+ level
- In 2025, progress was over one grade higher than national average in Art, Childcare, Travel and Tourism
- Attainment and progress is also very high in Dance and Sport





Enrichment Opportunities



- Expeditionary learning
- Sport/Recreation
- Drama
- Music School
- Academy Productions
- Duke of Edinburgh Award



A broad, balanced, interesting and individualised curriculum

All students will study 9 GCSE level qualifications

- 10 if students opt for triple science

All students will study

- Character education
- PE
- Maths
- English
- Science

The curriculum pathway is individualised

Students that are highly academic will study an Ebacc backbone

All students will have at least 2 free options

All students will develop independence in learning



English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)



- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science
- History/Geography
- Modern Foreign Language

This results in 7 qualifications



What subjects can students opt for?

Option Block 1	Option Block 2
GCSE Product Design	BTEC Sport
GCSE Art	BTEC Drama
GCSE Geography	BTEC Dance
BTEC Music	BTEC Health and Social Care
BTEC Health and Social Care	BTEC Travel and Tourism
BTEC Sport	GCSE Product Design
GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Art
	Cambridge National in IT
	GCSE Business



Curriculum Considerations

Academic (GCSEs)

- Largely terminal exams
- Very little (if any) coursework
- Graded 9 to 1

Vocational (BTEC/Tech awards)

- Several controlled assessment sections (portfolios of work)
- Usually 1 examined unit
- Level 2 pass = GCSE grade 4
- Level 2 merit = GCSE grade 5.5
- Level 2 distinction = GCSE grade 7





Summary of GCSE level qualification

5 Core GCSEs

- English Literature and English Language
- Maths
- Combined Science

History/Geography or a Vocational Option

French/German or a Vocational Option

2 Free Options

This results in 9 qualifications

Triple Science is an option for the most able Scientists





How to choose the right subjects for you

Don't

- pick a subject because your friends are
- pick a subject because you like the teacher

DO

- pick a subject because it interests you
- pick a subject which suits your ability and talents
- pick a subject linked to future career interests
- speak to your PT, subject teachers, family members and other student and listen to their views



2026 Key dates

Monday 11 May	Year 9 Information Assemblies with a focus on subjects students have not studied at Key Stage 3
Wednesday 13 May	Individualised preference forms given out
Thursday 21 May	Deadline for preference forms to be handed in
Monday 15 June	Confirmation of Key Stage 4 programme of Study
Friday 19 June	Students begin Key Stage 4 study programme



Completing the preference form

Option Two (Indicate order of preference)	Student order of preference (1,2,3) Choose only three
GCSE Business Studies	3
BTEC Sport	
BTEC Drama	1
BTEC Dance	
BTEC Health and Social care	
BTEC Travel and Tourism	
GCSE Product design	2
GCSE Art	
Cambridge National in IT	

Forms need to be returned to student resources by Thursday 21 May

As long as forms are in on time, preferences are not awarded on a first come first served basis



Thank you
for your time this evening

Help and Support
with next steps

Please contact Personal tutors for guidance where necessary
You can also contact Dr Smith (GSmith@walsallacademy.com)