

Keswick School



6th January 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your child is approaching the end of Key Stage 3. The purpose of this letter is to outline the KS4 curriculum for September 2026 and explain how we will prepare your son or daughter for this transition.

KS4 Curriculum

Throughout the first three years of their secondary education our students have received a broad and balanced curriculum following the National Curriculum guidelines. It is now time to prepare for new courses in Years 10 and 11 that will lead to GCSE and equivalent qualifications.

All students will follow a core curriculum comprised of:

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Science (3 separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics)
- Games (non-examined)
- Personal Development (non-examined, including health, relationships/sexual education, careers, personal finance and religious studies).

KS4 Pathways

Students are placed on one of two aspirational pathways, **the green pathway** or **the blue pathway**.

Like most schools nationally, we will place students on broad pathways according to their current performance to ensure they are challenged but also able to cope with the demands of GCSE/vocational courses. Therefore, most students starting Year 10 in September 2026 will be placed on one of the following pathways:

1. Green pathway

Students will study:

English language, English literature, mathematics, separate sciences (biology, chemistry, physics). Students are **strongly advised** to study a series of qualifications that include a humanity subject (geography or history) and a modern foreign language (French or German) plus one other subject.

Some higher educational establishments, apprenticeship schemes or employers may look favourably on students who have achieved all these qualifications and as such whilst we encourage individual choice, we are determined to ensure that our students are making choices that are future proofed, therefore we offer this additional guidance.

2. Blue pathway

Students will study:

English language, English literature, mathematics, separate sciences (biology, chemistry, physics). Students are **strongly advised** to study a series of qualifications that include a humanity subject (geography or history), plus two other subjects. Some blue pathway students may choose to study a modern foreign language.



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For a small number of students there will be additional support and guidance, as it may not be appropriate for them to study for a full selection of courses on offer. We will work with those students and families directly to ensure that there is an appropriate curriculum in place for September 2026.

Please note that not all courses may run if the numbers choosing them are not viable, and not all course combinations may be possible. The final decision rests with the Headteacher.

Information about which KS4 pathway your son/daughter has been allocated will be sent out on **Friday 30th January 2026**, following the parents' evening. Further information about the suite of subjects available to them, including arts, practical and vocational subjects, will be available in the options booklet on the school website, as outlined in the important dates below.

You are invited to a parent only information evening on Wednesday 14th January where we will explain the options pathways and process, as well as outlining post-16 routes. So that your questions can be addressed at the options information evening, we ask that you submit them through this Google Form link:

<https://forms.gle/EUM9tXaZrKAcGuA79>

You will have the opportunity to ask your child's classroom teachers specific questions about subjects and your child's progress at the parents' evening scheduled to follow the information evening. See important dates below:

Important dates

Wednesday 14th January:	Parents only information evening: information about the options process, careers guidance and FAQ. 6pm-7pm in Queen's Hall.
W/C 26 th January:	A year group assembly to explain the options process. Subject specific information given to students through lessons and form periods.
Thursday 29 th January:	Parents' Evening for all Year 9 students and parents/guardians.
Friday 30 th January:	Website information goes live – options booklet and the link to the electronic option survey. Pathway letters sent home.
Monday 9th February:	Deadline for the initial electronic option survey.
Friday 13 th February:	Option blocks created and electronic online option form open.
Tuesday 24th February (9am):	Deadline for completion of electronic option form.

Finally, we understand that this is an important time for students, and we will ensure they have plenty of opportunities this half term to ask questions in lessons and form periods.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ryding
Head of Year 9

Mrs A Allport
Assistant Head (KS4 transition)



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