

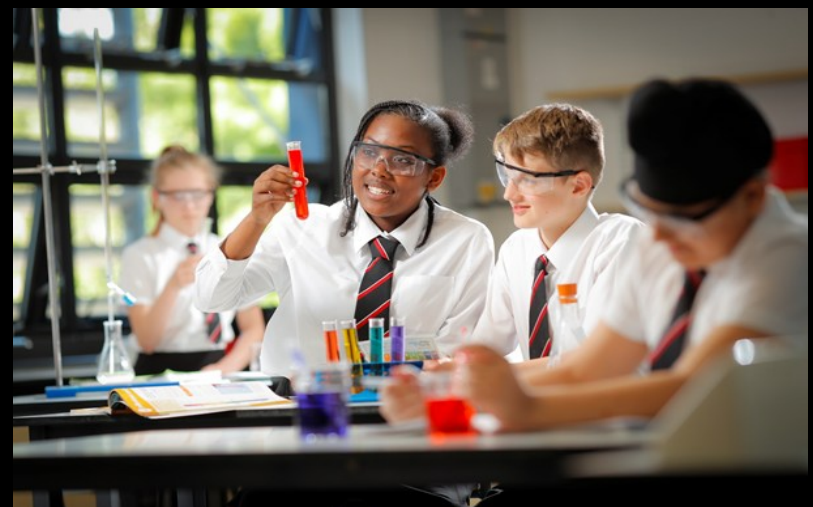


**BRENTSIDE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**LEARNING & ACHIEVING TOGETHER**



# Year 8 Options Evening 2026





# Aims of the evening:

- To **provide information about the Key Stage 4 curriculum** for all students
- To explain the **Options Process** and what **choices** are available
- Provide an opportunity to **visit subjects** and ask questions
- Tonight is **all about YOU**



# GCSEs have changed in the last few years...

- There is more to cover in GCSEs than there used to be so you need a bit more time.
- To help, at Brentside we start your GCSEs in Year 9.
- This is why we start the process of choosing subjects in Year 8.



# What is the difference between KS3 and KS4?

- At KS3 and at KS4 there are subjects that nationally all students have to study:
- English language, English literature, mathematics, science, citizenship, religious studies and physical education.
- At KS4, there is an element of choice. You can choose particular subjects that will lead to either a GCSE or BTEC qualification.



# The majority of students will study one subject from each of the following:

- **A humanity:** Geography or History
- **A modern foreign language:** French or Spanish
- **Religious Studies or Citizenship**
- **One open choice subject:** computing, media studies, health and social care, PE, food preparation and nutrition, product design, history, geography, **drama**, **music** (includes a traditional pathway or music tech pathway), or one of the **arts** (Visual arts: fine art, sculpture, 3D design, textiles, graphics, or photography). Those not studying French or Spanish must select a creative subject from this list which we have highlighted in yellow.





## Pathways

- Blue Pathway – English, maths, history or geography, sciences, religious studies or citizenship and a modern foreign language
- Silver Pathway - English, maths, history or geography, sciences, religious studies or citizenship and one of the following depending on which is most suitable; curriculum support, literacy support, English as an additional language, employability skills or arts award





# Pathways

- Some students will study additional GCSEs within their subject lessons for example set 1 mathematicians will usually study Further Maths as well as maths.
- In science students in set 1 will study triple science which is worth three GCSEs rather than two. Students will receive extra lessons if they are studying triple science



# Religious studies & citizenship

- On the options form students are asked to indicate whether they will take a full GCSE in religious studies or citizenship.
- Statutory elements of the subject students do not select will be covered at set times during the academic year, such as during applied learning days.





### The Key Stage 4 Curriculum Blue Pathway

All students study all the subjects in the 'core' row. They then select one from each of the next five rows.

|                                                   |                                        |                                         |                                    |                                |                        |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| Core (all)                                        | English and Literature <b>1</b>        | Mathematics <b>1</b>                    | Science <b>1</b>                   | Physical Education             |                        |         |
| Languages (one of)                                | French <b>3</b><br>(if studied at KS3) | Spanish <b>3</b><br>(if studied at KS3) |                                    |                                |                        |         |
| Humanities (one of)                               | Geography                              | History                                 |                                    |                                |                        |         |
| Open Choice (one of)                              | Art                                    | Computing                               | Drama                              | Food Preparation and Nutrition | Health and Social Care | History |
|                                                   | Media Studies                          | Music                                   | Physical Education                 | Product Design                 |                        |         |
| Religious Studies or Citizenship                  |                                        |                                         |                                    | Religious Studies <b>2</b>     | Citizenship <b>2</b>   |         |
| Light yellow shaded options do not lead to a GCSE |                                        |                                         | Blue shaded options lead to a GCSE |                                |                        |         |



# The Key Stage 4 Curriculum Silver Pathway

All students study all the subjects in the 'core' row. They then select one from each of the next five rows.

|                                                   |                                 |                                    |                    |                                      |                        |           |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Core (all)                                        | English and Literature <b>1</b> | Mathematics <b>1</b>               | Science <b>1</b>   | Physical Education                   |                        |           |
| Silver pathway subjects                           | *Curriculum Support             | *English as an Additional Language | *Learning Support  | *Arts Award                          | *Employability Skills  | *Literacy |
| Humanities (one of)                               | Geography                       | History                            |                    |                                      |                        |           |
| Open Choice (one of)                              | Art                             | Computing                          | Drama              | Food Preparation and Nutrition       | Health and Social Care | History   |
|                                                   | Media Studies                   | Music                              | Physical Education | Product Design                       |                        |           |
| Religious Studies or Citizenship                  |                                 |                                    |                    | Religious Studies <b>2</b>           | Citizenship <b>2</b>   |           |
| Light yellow shaded options do not lead to a GCSE |                                 |                                    |                    | Silver shaded options lead to a GCSE |                        |           |



### Year 8 Options Form 2026

#### Blue pathway

Name:

Tutor Group:

*Students will be given the appropriate options form for their pathway.*

**CORE** All students study English, literature, mathematics, science, core PE and religious studies or citizenship. They will also study French or Spanish depending upon which modern foreign language they currently study.

#### 1. Humanities:

Choose **ONE** of these. Tick it:

| Geography                | History                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### 2. Open Choice:

Choose **ONE** of these **PLUS ONE** reserve. **Tick your first choice and also write R** in your reserve choice (your second choice).

**You cannot select any subject below if you have already selected it above.**

| Art                      | Computing                | Drama                    | Food Technology          | Health and Social Care   | History                  | Media Studies            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Media Studies            | Music*                   | Physical Education       | Product Design           |                          |                          |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | TR                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|                          | MT                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |

\* Music: Within music students will have the choice to study the traditional pathway or the music technology pathway. Please indicate your preferred pathway using the following codes: TR Traditional or MT Music technology

**3. Religious Studies, Citizenship or Art:** Students will study **both** Religious Studies and Citizenship through drop down days, however they have the option to sit a GCSE in one of these as well. In **addition** we will be running two Art classes in this block. Where there is competition for spaces in a subject, those with the highest attitude to learning score in the subject will be prioritised. Please note you cannot select art if you have already selected art in your open choice. Please select your first choice below:

Choose **ONE** of these. Tick it:

| Religious Studies        | Citizenship              | General Art GCSE         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (student) \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/carer)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (student) \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/carer)

Where possible, students will be given their first choices, but they should think carefully about reserves as these may be needed. Remember that all courses offered are subject to availability of staff and group sizes.

**Fill in and return to your form tutor by 27 March 2026**

For more information, please see your options booklet. For support and guidance, speak to your tutor, Safe Worker or Year 8 Leader.

- Core
- MFL
- Humanities
- Arts
- Open
- RS or Cz



### Year 8 Options Form 2026

#### Silver Pathway

Name:

Tutor Group:

*Students will be given the appropriate options form for their pathway.*

**CORE** All students study English, literature, mathematics, science, curriculum support, citizenship, core PE and religious studies.

#### Additional Support Option

This pathway is for students who will not study a modern foreign language, though they may gain a heritage language GCSE. You will have additional classes to support you in succeeding across the Key Stage 4 curriculum. We will also be running two qualifications which do not count as GCSE level qualifications for some students. We will discuss these qualifications with students before Year 9 or during Key Stage Four (Year 9 to Year 11) if we think a student should consider attending one of these courses. Whilst not counting as a GCSE level qualification, some students will benefit from the skills these courses help them to develop. They are the Bronze Arts Award and the Prince's Trust Level 1 Award in Personal Development and Employability Skills. Talk to your tutor, SAFE worker or Year Leader if you would like to discuss this.

#### 1. Humanities:

Choose **ONE** of these. Tick it:

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Geography | History |
|-----------|---------|

#### 2. Open Choice:

Choose **ONE** of these PLUS **ONE** reserve. Tick your first choice and also write R in your reserve choice (your second choice).

In order to comply with Department for Education requirements students who do not study an MFL must pick a creative subject. Please select an option in yellow on the bottom row of the table below.

| Physical Education | Computing | Food Technology | Health and Social Care | History | Media Studies |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Art                | Music*    | Drama           | Product Design         |         |               |
|                    | TR        |                 |                        |         |               |
|                    | MT        |                 |                        |         |               |

\* Music: Within music students will have the choice to study the traditional pathway or the music technology pathway. Please indicate your preferred pathway using the following codes: TR)Traditional or (MT) Music technology

**3. Religious Studies, Citizenship or Art:** Students will study both Religious Studies and Citizenship through drop down days, however they have the option to sit a GCSE in one of these as well. In addition we will be running two Art classes in this block. Where there is competition for spaces in a subject, those with the highest attitude to learning score in the subject will be prioritised. Please note you cannot select art if you have already selected art in your open choice. Please select your first choice below:

Choose **ONE** of these. Tick it:

|                   |             |             |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Religious Studies | Citizenship | General Art |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|

#### 4. Curriculum Support, English as an additional language, Arts Award or Employability Skills:

In place of a Modern Foreign Language, we will be advising students whether they should have additional classes in curriculum support, Literacy or English as an additional language. Some students will be able to select the arts award, and some will be able to select employability skills. Please tick one to indicate your preference and we will discuss this option and its suitability with you.

Choose **ONE** of these. Tick it:

|          |                    |                                   |            |                      |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Literacy | Curriculum Support | English as an additional language | Arts Award | Employability skills |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|

Where possible, students will be given their first choices, but they should think carefully about reserves as these may be needed. Remember that all courses offered are subject to availability of staff and group sizes. Fill in and return to your form tutor by Friday, 27 March 2026

### Supported Curriculum:

- Withdrawal from MFL
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Agreed with parent, AHT and Year Leader
- May discuss other options such as Arts Award or Kings trust Award



# Why do I need a reserve choice?

- Once we know every student's first and second choices, we then aim to build the curriculum to meet these. It is possible that some students will need to use their reserve (second) choice.
- If this is the case, we will speak with the student first.
- We aim to ensure that everyone gets their first or second choice each time.



# Options Process

- February/March Assemblies and form time - overview of the process
- February/March Options Booklets made available to students. Tutor time and discussions with staff
- 5 March Options Evening
- 27 March Target Review Day - opportunity to discuss choices and return hard copy of Option Form to tutor.

Deadline for Options Form- Friday, 27 March (Target Review Day)





# BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING & ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Where will my choices take me?





Simphiwe is now a FSRH Faculty Registered Trainer who trains other nurses.

She has given a presentation to our GCSE Health and Social Care group.







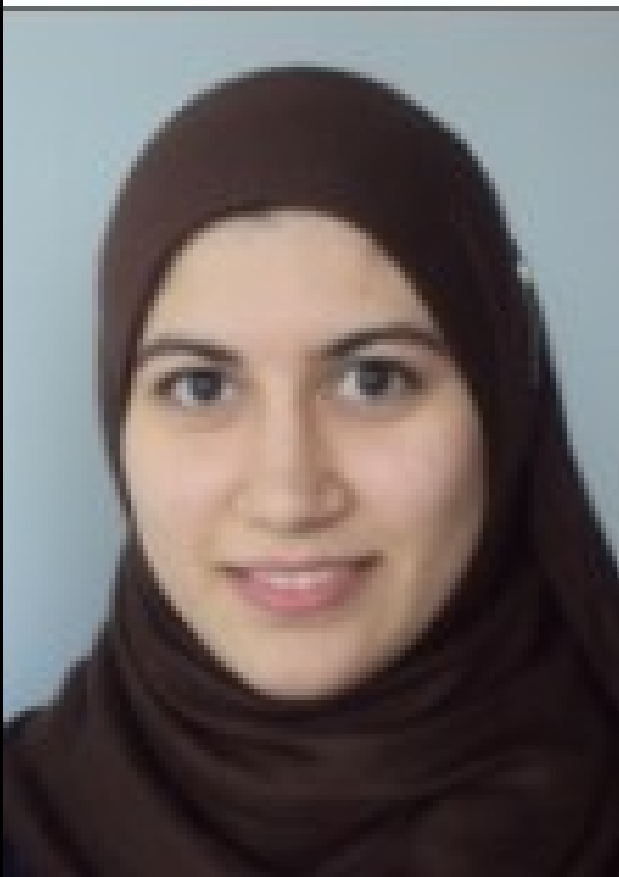
## Kalu studied maths at Brentside



He graduated from Cambridge University and is now a trader for JP Morgan. He delivered a talk to our students about his journey.



Farah studied sciences.  
She is now a GP working in  
General Practice, Urgent care and  
Accident & Emergency in London.



She was our guest of honour at an Awards Evening.



## Suley studied drama at Brentside



He is now a multi-Award  
Winning Engagement Lead,  
Specialising in  
Communications, Projects  
and Leadership.



## Mr Chelh Top Tips

- Choose subjects you genuinely enjoy and are curious about, not just what your friends are doing.
- Think about your future goals, what subjects will help you get where you want to be?
- Ask teachers for advice, they know your strengths and can help guide you.
- Research the course content, make sure you know what each subject actually involves.
- Trust yourself, ultimately, you'll do best in the subjects you feel motivated by.



## Options Evening: 5 March 2026

### Subject Rooms

#### GROUND FLOOR

| Subject                           | Room               |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| English                           | G30                |
| Design Technology: Product Design | G41                |
| Food Preparation and Nutrition    | G81 (new building) |

#### FIRST FLOOR

| Subject                                       | Room               |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Science                                       | F1                 |
| Learning Support                              | F9                 |
| Music and Music Technology                    | F17                |
| Drama                                         | F23                |
| Textiles                                      | F39                |
| Graphics, Photography, Fine Art and Sculpture | F38                |
| Media Studies                                 | S30                |
| Mathematics                                   | F72 (new building) |

#### SECOND FLOOR

| Subject                   | Room               |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Computer Science          | S2                 |
| History                   | S7                 |
| Geography                 | S9                 |
| Religious Studies         | S6                 |
| Citizenship               | S26                |
| Physical Education (GCSE) | S29                |
| Modern Foreign Languages  | S48                |
| Health and Social Care    | T75 (new building) |

**Students with surnames A-K** are asked to start from the ground floor and work their way up.

**Students with surnames L-Z** are asked to start on the second floor and work their way down.



## Questions?

- Options Booklet
- Mr Chelh (Year Leader)
- Ms Lane (AHT)
- Ms Nagra (AHT)
- Mr Bannon (DHT)
- Subject teachers
- [y8options2026@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:y8options2026@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk)

**Have an enjoyable evening!**