



BISHOP HEBER HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9 Preference Information 2026

RESPECT · OPPORTUNITY · ACHIEVEMENT



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What should you try to achieve?

- A range of subjects that gives you breadth, variety and balance
- A selection of subjects that will keep open your future options – further study & career choices
- A curriculum that suits *you*



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How will you achieve it?

By choosing:

- Subjects you like
- Subjects you are good at
- Subjects you want to do, not what a friend chooses. Students who choose exactly the same subjects could well be taught in different classes
- Subjects related to a career you are interested in
- Don't try to play the game of putting subjects in a particular order because you think that's the most likely way of getting what you want



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Who will help you choose?

- Subject teachers, who will describe what the subject is like in Years 10 and 11
- Tutors, who know your strengths
- Year Leader for Year 9
- Parents
- Older brothers/sisters



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What MUST you do?


- **Compulsory Core Subjects**
 - English (2 GCSEs: Language and Literature)
 - Maths (1 GCSE)
 - Science (2 GCSEs: Combined Science) or 3 GCSEs as an option.
 - Languages (1 GCSE)
- **Non-exam subjects**
 - PE
 - RE
 - Personal, Social , Health, Citizenship and Economic Education (PSHCE)



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Which preference subjects are available?

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**GCSE Options
2026-2028**

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This booklet and all course information can be found on the school website

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Languages

The default is that the top sets will continue in languages as part of their core curriculum

However, those in other groups may wish to request a non-language course

We will run these where it is viable and the school considers appropriate for you



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Sciences

- All students will follow a course leading to two GCSEs unless they choose Separate Science as an option subject
- Students who are in sets 1 or 2 are eligible to apply for separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. To be considered for this you need to put 'Separate Science' as one of the choices on your options form.



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Humanities

- Geography or History are not compulsory at Heber except if you are placed on the non-language pathway
- BUT.... We are not sure what universities and employers will be looking for in the future
- Many schools DO insist on this
- So, it would be wise to consider studying a humanity subject



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Further Maths

- If you are in set 1 for Mathematics next year you will have the opportunity to be entered for both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics at the end of Year 11.
- You will be able to make this decision mid-way through Year 11



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Ensuring Breadth

- **There are some combinations of subject that we would only consider in exceptional circumstances:**
 - GCSE Art & GCSE Photography
 - BTec Engineering & GCSE Design Technology
 - BTec Sport & GCSE PE
 - GCSE Media & Film Studies



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What will my timetable look like?

Core	Number of lessons
English	7
Maths	8
Science	9
Spanish or German	5
PE	3
RE, PSHCE	3
TOTAL	35 per fortnight



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What will my timetable look like?

Preference Subjects

3 Free preferences (5 hours each)

Number of lessons

15

OR if on the non languages

Vocational course

5

Geography or History

5

2 Free Preferences (5 hours each)

10



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Use your preference booklet

- Read it – there is lots of useful information in there!
- Jot notes down in it
- Don't rush to try and make up your mind immediately – go back to the booklet and think about your choices
- Discuss your ideas with your tutor
- Consider exams v coursework balance
- Complete the choices forms and submit the information before the deadline of Thursday **26th February**



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Registering Your Preferences

GCSE Preferences 2026

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

CORE CURRICULUM

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE English Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE German OR Spanish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Core PE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE English Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE Combined Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Core RE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE Mathematics		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSHE

Key Stage 3 Language: GCSE German GCSE Spanish

English Set: Maths Set: Science Set: Languages Set:

Open Preferences – Number (1 to 5) In Preference Order

<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Award in Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Physical Education
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Business	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Computer Science	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Geography	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Religious Studies
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Design Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE History	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Separate Science
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Drama	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Media	<input type="checkbox"/> BTec Sport
	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Music	

Only complete if requesting Non-Languages Pathway (Not all will run):

Non-Languages – Number 1,2,3 In Preference Order

<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Award in Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Film Studies
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> BTec Sport

Non-Languages – Choose one

<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Geography
OR
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE History

RETURN TO YOUR FORM TUTOR BY 26TH FEBRUARY

- Put subjects in priority order
- 1. Everyone completes the **Green** and **blue** boxes
- 2. If you would like to be considered for a vocational course, also complete all of the **pink** boxes.
- 3. Be aware the not all the vocational subjects in the **pink** boxes will run.



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Registering Your Preferences

GCSE Preferences 2026

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE English Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE Combined Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Core RE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE Mathematics		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSHCE

Key Stage 3 Language: GCSE German GCSE Spanish

English Set: Maths Set: Science Set: Languages Set:

Open Preferences – Number (1 to 5) In Preference Order

<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Award in Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Physical Education
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Only complete if requesting Non-Languages Pathway (Not all will run):

Non-Languages – Number 1,2,3 In Preference Order

<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Award in Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Film Studies
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> BTec Sport

Non-Languages – Choose one

<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Geography
OR
<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE History

RETURN TO YOUR FORM TUTOR BY 26TH FEBRUARY

- Make sure the subjects are **YOUR** choices, don't be influenced by your friends
- There are 2 forms in the booklet – keep one safe
- Hand the (back cover) second form to your form tutor by **Thursday 26th February**



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What happens after that?

- **Collect all options forms**
- **Discuss choices with students if their selections seem to lack breadth or balance or may not be the best options for them as an individual**
- **Use student's reserve choice(s) if we are unable to offer all their preferences**
- **Construct a timetable that, within available resources, enables the maximum number of students to study their preference subjects**
- **ALL student will be informed about their subjects just after activities week**