



# Year 9 Options Evening

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me,  
with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.”

[John, 15:5](#)



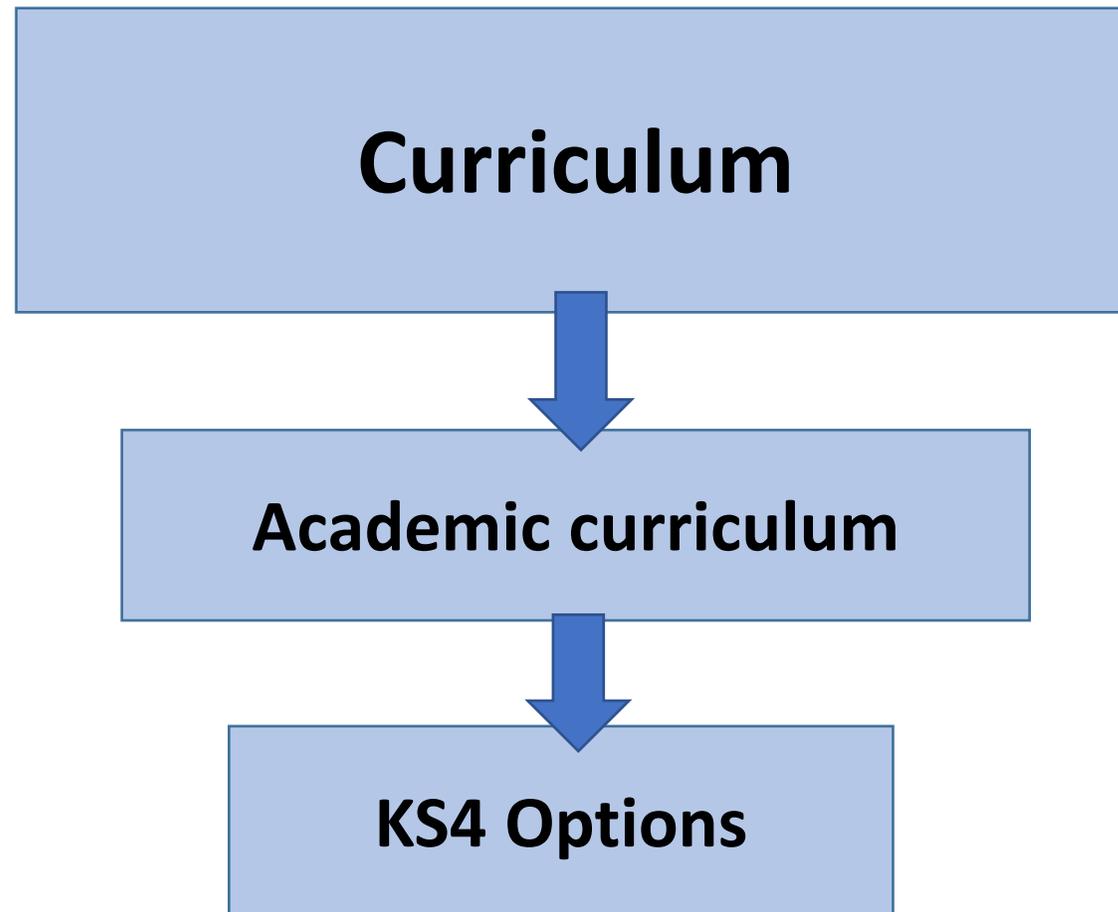
# A vision for the future



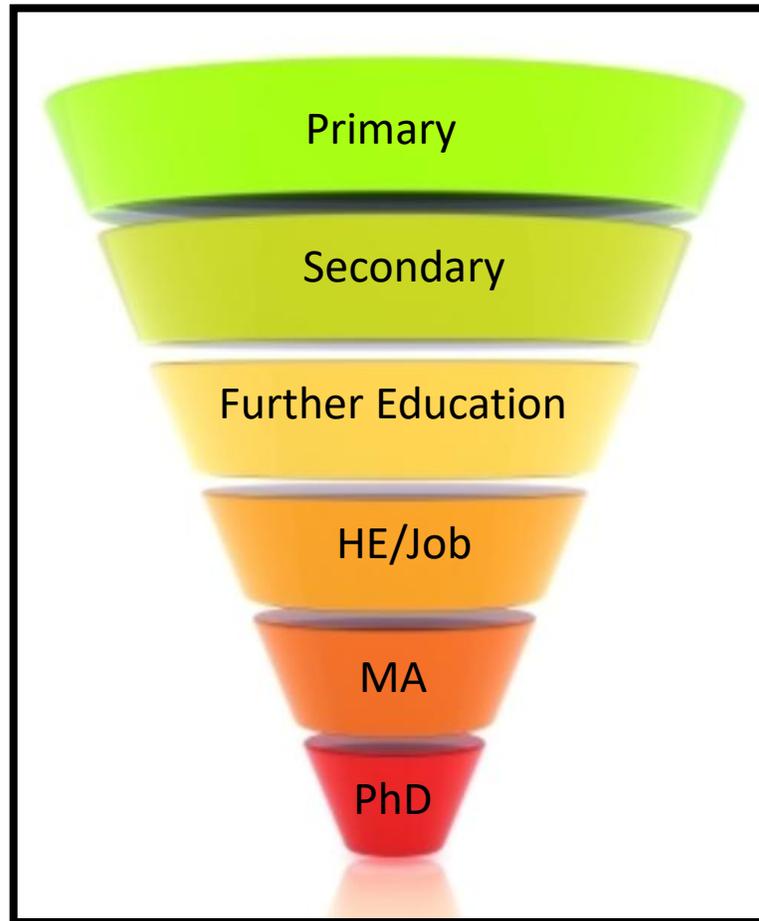
To provide a transformative Catholic Education ensuring that our pupils are empowered to serve the common good, by living the values of Faith, Love and Hope



# Transformative Catholic Education



# The funnel now begins...

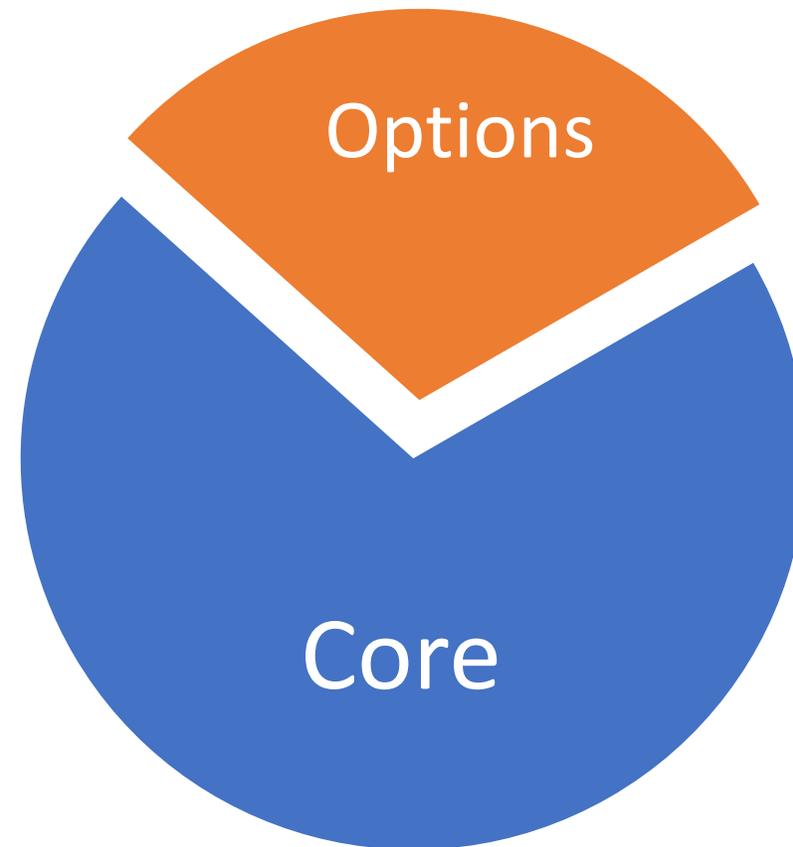


# Our KS4 Curriculum



The Curriculum is made up of two parts:

- Compulsory Core
- Options



# KS4 Curriculum



## KS4 Curriculum

### Compulsory Core Curriculum

RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES

ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
AND  
LITERATURE

MATHS

SCIENCE

PE

P  
D

### Options

OPTION  
1

OPTION  
2

OPTION  
3



# Option subjects



**Art (GCSE)**

**Computer Science (GCSE)**

**Design and Technology (GCSE)**

**Drama (GCSE)**

**Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)**

**German (GCSE)**

**Geography (GCSE)**

**History (GCSE)**

**Separate Sciences** (with compulsory Science this leads to separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

**Media Studies (GCSE)**

**Music (GCSE)**

**Photography (GCSE)**

**Physical Education (GCSE)**

**Digital Information Technology (BTEC Tech Awards)**



# German -Frau Williams



## First exams: 2026

### Brand new specification

- Different from GCSEs taken by older siblings or family friends
- Accessible, engaging, and inclusive
- Focused on **real-life** topics
- Develops key skills: communication, cultural awareness, and confidence — practical for **life** and **work**

### Assessment & Support

- Clear, consistent structure with predictable question types
- Supportive tasks in listening, reading, writing, and speaking
- Designed to build student **confidence** and support **success**

### GCSE Tiers

- Higher Tier: Grades 4–9
- Foundation Tier: Grades 1–5

family	friends	relationships	equality
physical well-being	mental well-being	food and drink	sports
places in town	shopping	transport	the natural world
environmental issues	social media and gaming	future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)	school
music	TV and film	accommodation	tourist attractions

Department for Education Headteacher's Bulletin published TODAY 12.2.26

*Learning a language builds more than vocabulary alone. It strengthens memory, problem-solving, and analytical thinking – skills that support success across the curriculum. Choosing a language keeps pathways open to further and higher education, and beyond.*

# Broad and balanced curriculum

## Subjects you cannot select together



### KS4 Curriculum

#### Compulsory Core Curriculum

RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES

ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
AND  
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#### Options

OPTION  
1

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OPTION  
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Art X Photography

Computer science X Digital IT

# Art/Photography information –Mrs Corness



## AQA – Art, Craft and Design

### AQA - Photography



#### **Component 1 – 60%**

- Art – Natural Forms in Year 10 and 1 independent project in Term 1 of Year 11
- Photography – Portraiture and Architecture

#### **ESA (Externally Set Assignment) – 40%**

- The exam board give a list of 7 titles E.G. Places and spaces, portraiture, layers etc in January of Year 11 (this is completed over 12 weeks)

### **10 Hour exam in April (2 days – 5 hours each day)**

- No written exam – all coursework based
- In exam conditions – silence and no phones
- Can prepare everything before the exam and take in sketchbooks/help sheets etc
- After the exam in April all Art/Photography work is complete
- Art/Photography pack bought at start of the year, but all other materials are provided, no camera needed



# CS/Digital IT information –Mr Moore



## GCSE OCR Computer Science course content

- **Paper 1 - J277/01: Computer systems** Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes (50% overall grade)
- **Paper 2 - J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming** Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes (50% overall grade)

## BTEC Digital IT

2 x coursework units (each worth 30% of overall grade)

- **Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques**
- **Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data**

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes (40% overall grade)

- **Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices**

Components are graded as:

Level 2 Pass (grade 4), Merit (grade 5.5), Distinction (grade 7), Distinction\* (grade 8+)



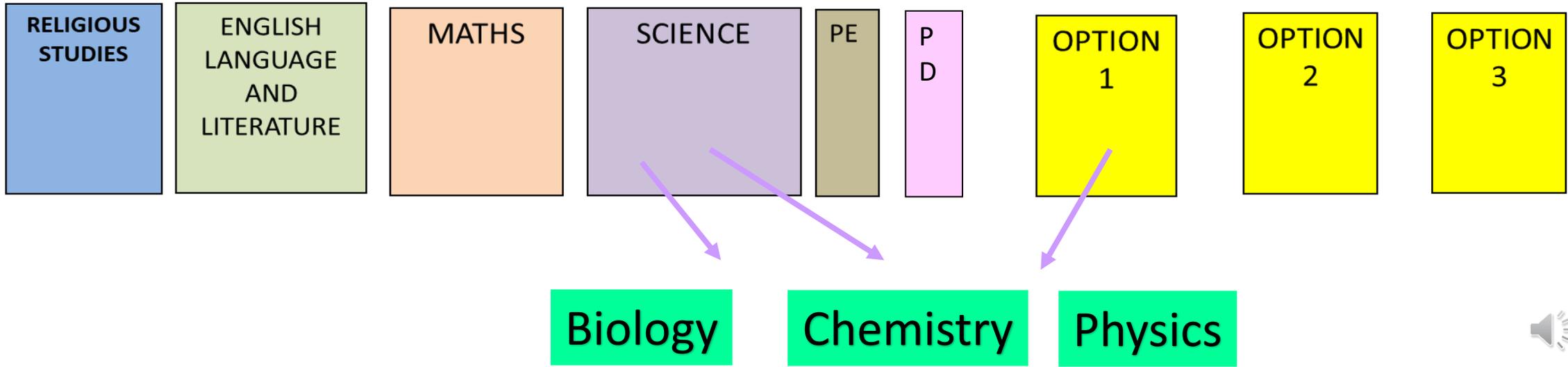
# Points to Consider Separate Sciences?



## KS4 Curriculum

### Compulsory Core Curriculum

### Options



# Curriculum Review



## The curriculum review reforms timeline



SCHOOLS  
WEEK



# English Baccalaureate (EBacc)



## KS4 Curriculum

### Compulsory Core Curriculum

RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES

ENGLISH  
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AND  
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P  
D

### Options

OPTION  
1

OPTION  
2

OPTION  
3

**OPTION 1**   **OPTION 2**  
Geography   German  
History



# Options blocks change year on year



## 2024

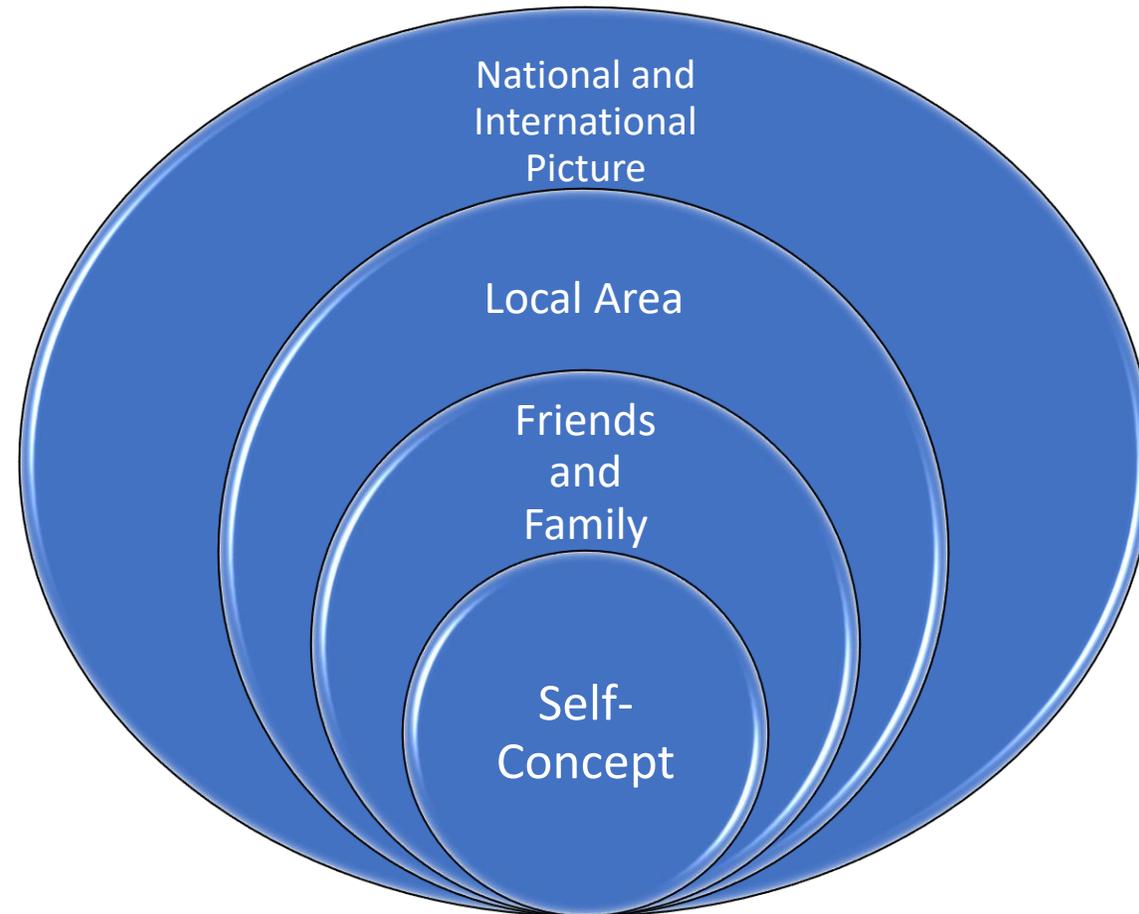
A	B	C
Food & nutrition	Art	Art
German	Computer science	Drama
Geography	Design technology	Design technology
History	Photography	Geography
Media	Geography	History
PE	History	Music
Separate sciences	Media	Separate sciences
	PE	

## 2023

A	B	C
Art	Art	Food & nutrition
French	Computer science	PE
Geography	Design technology	Media
History	Photography	Geography
Media	Geography	History
PE	History	Music
Separate sciences	Media	Separate sciences
	Drama	



# What do we base our decisions on?



# Options form – the order is important!



1 <sup>st</sup> preference	
2 <sup>nd</sup> preference	
3 <sup>rd</sup> preference	
1 <sup>st</sup> reserve	
2 <sup>nd</sup> reserve	



# Timeline



- **Y9 Options Evening - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**- to provide parents and students with an outline of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum and other information to help them to support their child in their Key Stage 4 option choices. Students /parents will then be issued with the Options booklet
- **Y9 Options Interviews - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** to give students the opportunity to discuss their choices with a senior member of staff.
- **Y9 Parents' Evening -Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** to enable parents and students to discuss academic progress and seek the advice of teachers regarding option choices.

[Options Forms](#) will be sent out on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March and are to be returned via MForms to school by 9am **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

# Y9 OPTIONS 2026

**XELLO**



**YOU HAVE BEEN ON TO  
XELLO BEFORE BUT HERE  
IS A REMINDER IF YOU  
WANT TO GET BACK ON!**

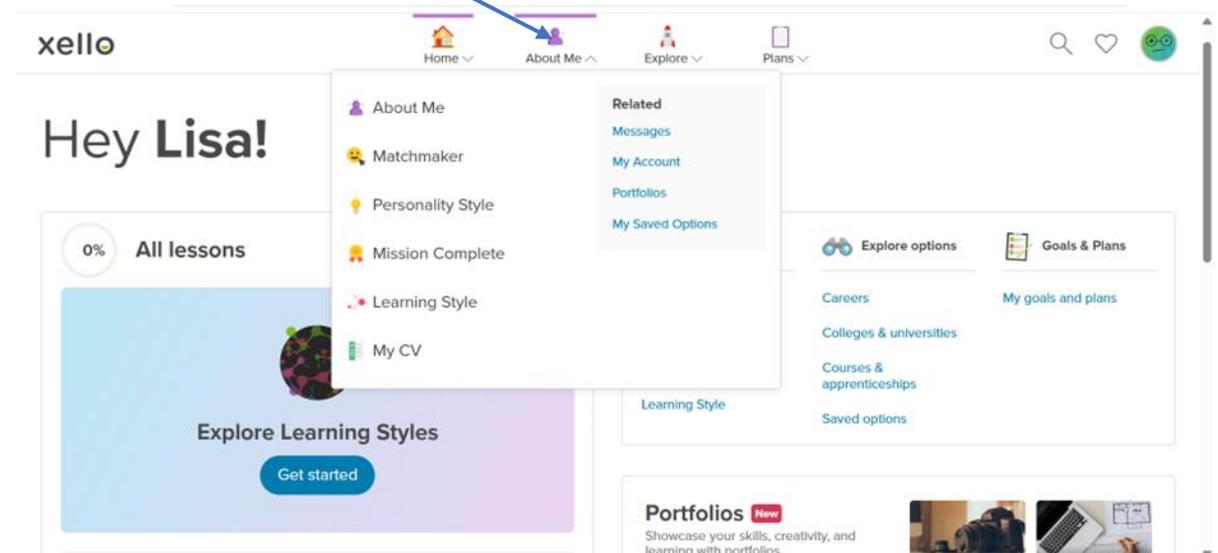
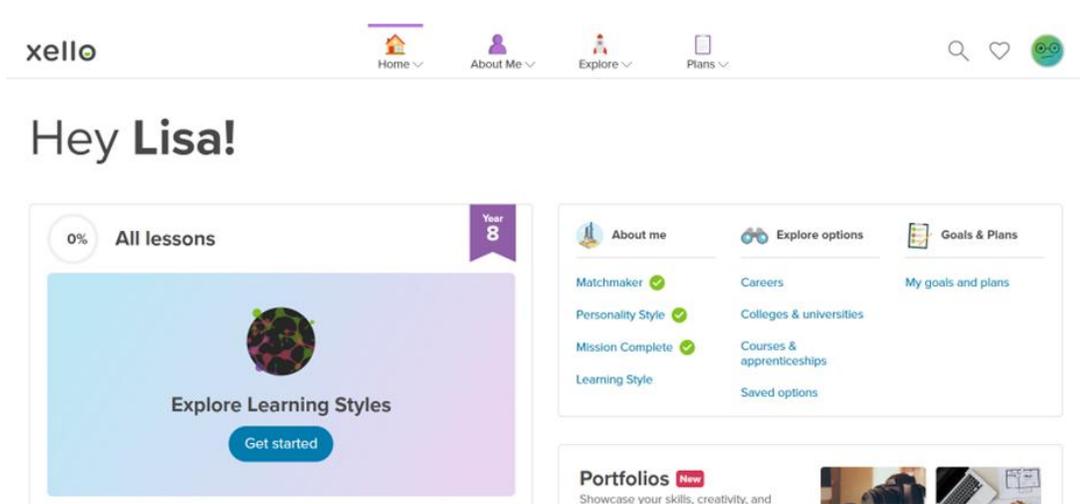
# What Is Xello?

- Online career and education planning tool
- Helps you explore careers, schools, and skills
- Used by students to plan for the future



# GO TO THE XELLO ICON ON YOUR STUDENT PORTAL

- ON YOUR HOMEPAGE CLICK ON THE 'ABOUT ME' TAB
- COMPLETE THE MATCHMAKER QUESTIONS. THERE ARE 39 OF THEM.
- YOU CAN COMPLETE THE OTHER QUIZZES NOW. AS YOU COMPLETE A QUIZ THE NEXT ONE WILL BE UNLOCKED AND THE CAREER MATCHES WILL BE CLOSER TO YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES.



# YOUR CAREER MATCHES

- YOUR MATCHES WILL SHOW UP AS 'EXCELLENT' 'GOOD' OR 'FAIR'
- AS YOU LOOK AT THE ONES YOU LIKE PLEASE 'HEART' THEM BY CLICKING ON THE HEART SHAPE. THIS WILL SAVE THEM FOR YOU SO YOU CAN LOOK AT THEM AGAIN.

The image shows a screenshot of the xello careers website. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About Me', 'Explore', and 'Plans'. The main content area is titled 'explore careers' and features a sidebar with filters for 'Minimum salary' (set to £0), 'Education' (set to 'School'), and 'More filters'. A dropdown menu is open, showing options like 'Explore Options', 'Careers', 'Colleges & Universities', 'Courses & Apprenticeships', and 'Pathways'. The main grid displays several job listings, each with a title, a thumbnail image, a match rating (e.g., 'Excellent match'), and a heart icon. A blue arrow points from the text 'HEART THEM BY CLICKING ON THE HEART SHAPE' to the heart icon of the 'PE Teacher' listing.

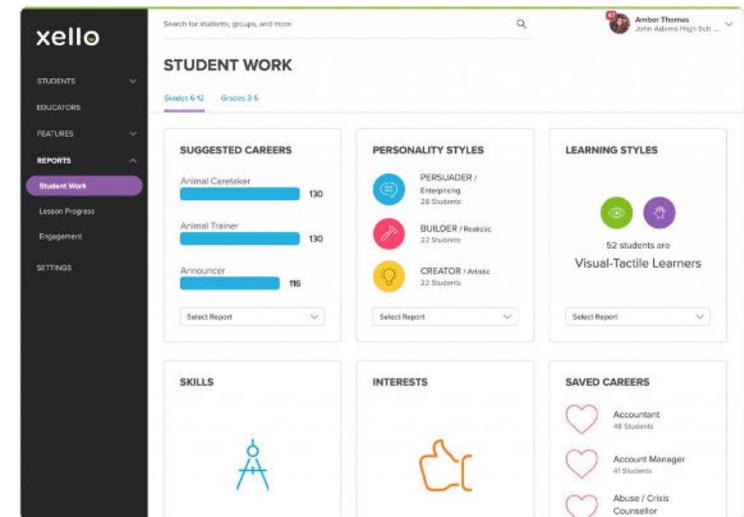
Job Title	Match Rating	Salary Range	Demand Status
Sustainability Specialist	Excellent match	£21,500 - £70,000	Increasing demand
Editor	Excellent match	£25,000 - £51,000	High demand
PE Teacher	Excellent match	£25,074 - £49,683	High demand
Editorial Assistant	Excellent match	£16,000 - £25,000	Increasing demand
Operations Manager			
Games Master			
Sports Coach			
Stage Manager			

# How to Search Jobs by Subjects in Xello

## Exploring Careers Based on What You Like

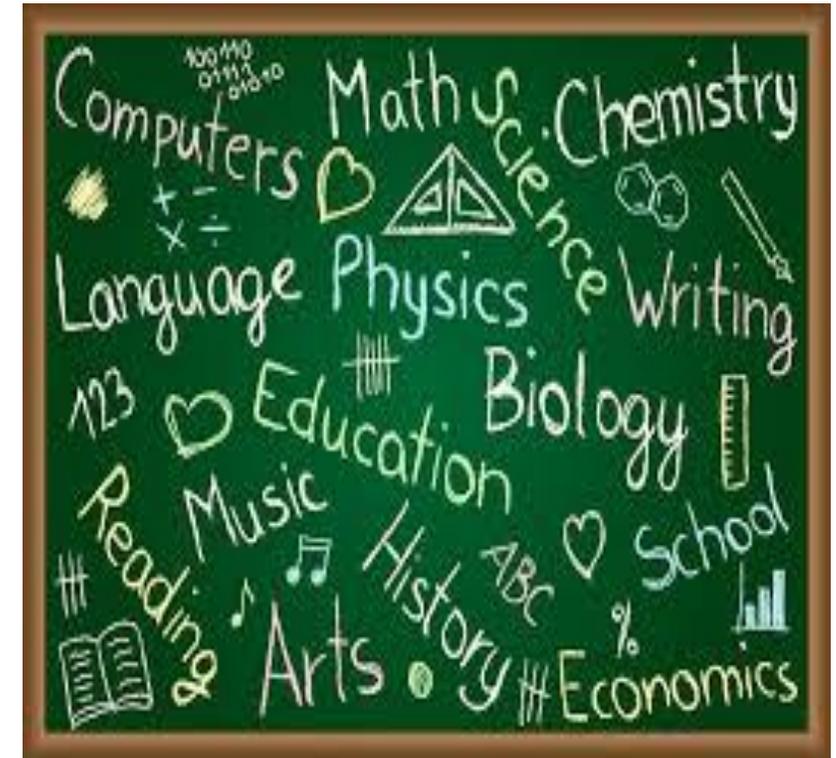
### GO TO EXPLORE CAREERS

- Click on *Careers* or *Explore Options*
- This section lets you search for different jobs



# Choose Subjects You Like

- Select the *Subjects* option
- Pick subjects you enjoy in school
- Example: Maths, Science, Art, English



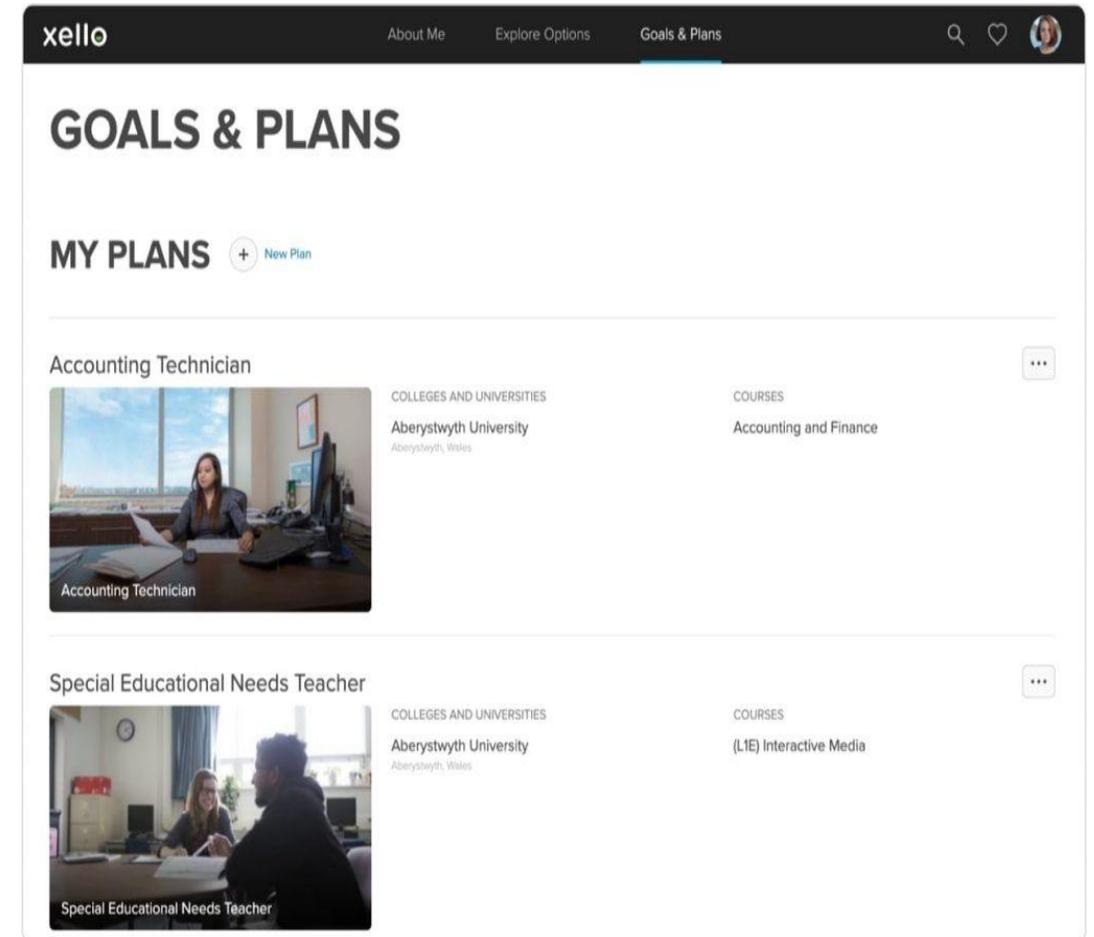
# View Matching Careers

- Xello shows careers linked to your subjects
- Click on a career to learn more
- View job duties, skills, and education needed



# Save Careers & Plan

- Save careers you're interested in
- Add them to your career or education plan
- Revisit and update anytime



My qualifications are from:  **United Kingdom.**

# LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
A levels	<p>AAA to include Chemistry together with either Biology, Physics or Mathematics and a third academic subject. Alternatively A*AB also accepted but the A* A grades must include Chemistry together with either Biology, Physics or Maths; and a B grade required in the third academic subject.</p> <p>If you don't meet the entry requirements, you may be able to complete a foundation year which would allow you to progress to this course.</p> <p>Available foundation years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions (Medicine) (Year 0)</b> MBChB</li></ul>
T levels	T levels are not currently accepted.
GCSE	<p>9 GCSEs attained by the end of Year 11 which must include English Language, Mathematic, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (or Core &amp; Additional Science, combined or triple science) at minimum grade B/6. A minimum score of 15 points from the best 9 GCSEs or equivalents (where A*/A/7/8/9 = 2 points; B/6 = 1 points). BTEC (Non-Science) Level 2 and OCR awards (Distinction*/Distinction = 2 points) BTEC (Non-Science) Level 2 and OCR awards (Merit = 1 point). Two points is the maximum score awarded in each subject area (e.g. only one of Maths and Further Maths). No more than two Level 2 BTEC qualifications or OCR awards will be considered as part of the 9 GCSEs/equivalents. These cannot be used as replacements for English Language, Maths and Science subjects. I.e. a minimum of 7 full GCSEs required</p>
Subject requirements	A levels in three subjects taken at one sitting, usually after 2 years of study: at a minimum of AAA Chemistry together with either Biology, Physics or Mathematics and a third academic subject. Alternative offer conditions may apply.
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	Not acceptable in lieu of A levels.



**St Bede's**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL WEBSITE



**Our School**

**Information**

**Catholic Life**

**Our Curriculum**

**Personal Development**

**Students**

**Contact Us**

Careers

Enrichment

Mental Health And Wellbeing

Personal Development Curriculum

Prevent

RSHE

Safeguarding



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LMI Information

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Skills for Careers

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Amazing Apprenticeships

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## Amazing Apprenticeships

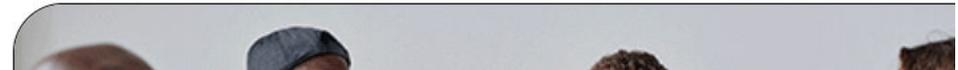
- [Amazing Apprenticeships link](#)
- [Higher and degree listings 2025](#)
- [Understanding Apprenticeships](#)
- [Parent and career information](#)
- [Applying for an Apprenticeship](#)
- [Apprenticeship Search](#)
- [The Apprenticeship Guide](#)
- [WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPRENTICESHIPS](#)
- [WHAT GOES INTO AN APPRENTICESHOP APPLICATION](#)
- [Apprenticeships with IBSTOCK](#)
- [January 2026 newsletter Link 1](#)
- [January 2026 Newsletter Link 2](#)
- [Apprenticeship Guide Newsletter](#)

**Beta** This is a new service - your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

[Home](#) > [Young People](#)

## Young people

Consider your training and career possibilities or get help working out your options.



# REMEMBER

- WHAT SUBJECTS AM I GOOD AT?
- SPEAK TO YOUR TEACHERS



- WHAT CAREER AM I INTERESTED IN?
- CHECK COLLEGE PROSPECTUSES FOR POST 16 COURSES
- CHECK UNIVERSITY WEB SITES FOR SUBJECTS AND GRADES

ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE DON'T HESITATE  
TO ASK ME OR MISS CRITCHLEY.

MRS L TURPIN