

Y9 Pathways 2026-28



Our School Vision

Forge Valley School is a safe, inclusive learning community where pupils and staff learn and thrive together. Forge Valley's ethos is based upon everyone striving to become their very best.

As a school we believe that ambition and endeavour provide our pupils with the mind-set needed, not only to succeed academically, but in adult life in an ever-changing modern world.

Our pupils are encouraged to become independent thinkers, develop foresight and believe that with hard work and resilience, they can achieve their dreams. We are an inclusive school which works hard to provide stimulating learning experiences for all our pupils, who are seen as individuals.

We work tirelessly to provide a nurturing environment which protects childhood and prepares for adulthood. Everyone at Forge Valley is part of our community, which is founded on empathy, respect, tolerance and equality.

Success at Forge Valley is not just measured in terms of academic performance. We aim to develop our pupils into reflective, confident, innovative, morally grounded, ambitious and resilient individuals ready to take their part in a dynamic and diverse 21st century.

AMBITION | ENDEAVOUR | SUCCESS

Forge Valley Pathways

Your guide to your future



Issued on 12th Jan, 2026
Version 2026 Edition

Y9 Pathways Timeline and Support

- Pathways Booklet – published on the school website and shared with pupils and families via email, MCAS and social media: **Week beginning Monday 19th January**
- Subject Information Assemblies: **Week beginning Monday 19th January**
- Y9 Parents' Evening: **Thursday 22nd January**
- Pathways Information Evening: **Wednesday 28th January (tonight)**
- Pathways Form (Microsoft Form) emailed to pupils' school email addresses, as well as parents: **Thursday 29th January**
- Deadline for the return of completed Pathways Forms (electronically via Microsoft Form): **Monday 9th February (last week of this half-term)**
- Send out Pathways confirmation to families (where first choices cannot be met, we will meet with your child in school and notify you directly): **Friday 6th March**

KS4 Curriculum

September 2026



Curriculum and Assessment Review

- The Government are currently setting out plans for a new curriculum
- Pupils should sit a minimum of 8 GCSEs as required by national accountability measures (Attainment 8)
- A broad and balanced curriculum should be provided for all pupils
- EBacc is to no longer be used as a government performance measure – this will be replaced by ‘breadth’
- All pupils must choose a minimum of **one humanity or language**, as well as **two other ‘breadth’ subjects** – this can include an additional humanity and/or language

GCSE Profile – What must I study?

1	English Language		
2	English Literature		
3	Mathematics		
4	Biology		
5	Chemistry	Sciences	This will be Combined Science (2 GCSEs) for some pupils
6	Physics		
7	RE		
			Core Curriculum

Available Options Subjects

BTEC Performing Arts*

BTEC Sport*

Creative iMedia*

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Business Studies

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Design Technology

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Music

GCSE Spanish

Hospitality & Catering Level 1 and 2*

Vocational Award Health and Social Care*

Option blocks and timetable clashes – it's rare that pupils will not be able to take their preferred subjects.

The way the timetable is constructed generally prevents timetable clashes between different options subjects.

The pathways timeline allows for an early and quick turnaround so we can meet pupil demand.

***Vocational courses are appropriate for pupils of all abilities and reduce the final exam burden.**

Nature of ‘Core’ Courses / GCSEs

- Assessment is linear (all exams are taken at the end of the course)
- 100% exam
- Much more of an emphasis on extended writing
- Assessment of Mathematical skills across the curriculum
- Graded 1-9

Coursework Based Assessment / BTECs

- BTEC qualifications are typically made up of 60% coursework and 40% exam
- BTEC courses are great if you are not confident in final exams
- They are not an easy option! They require hard work and dedication inside and outside the classroom

Science

What is the difference between Triple Science and Combined Science?

All pupils start with the opportunity to study 3 separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics).

Most pupils will continue with this into Y11, as this will:

- Add an extra GCSE to their profile
- Allow for continued specialist teaching in Biology / Chemistry / Physics
- Raise pupil aspirations and prepare pupils more effectively for A-levels

There will remain the flexibility to move pupils on to Combined Science in Y11 based on their progress.

Pupils who continue studying Triple Science in Y11 must attend a compulsory P6.

Advice With Making Decisions

- Choose subjects you enjoy, perform well in, and find interesting
- Read the Pathways information carefully
- Discuss your options with your tutor and your family
- Talk to your teacher about your strengths and areas for development
- Visit the Careers Team for advice and guidance
- Understand that all pupils have equal opportunities in every subject
- Recognise that the decisions you make are important for your future
- There are no “soft options” — you will need to work hard in every subject
- Don’t choose (or ignore) a subject based on other people’s opinions
- Don’t let your opinion of a teacher influence your choice
- Don’t choose a course just because your friends have chosen it
- Don’t make up your mind before you know all the facts

Additional Support (if Required)

We have encouraged pupils to talk to their parents, class teachers, form tutor, head of year or any other adult in school if they have any questions.

If pupils are becoming overwhelmed, they should raise their concerns with any of the staff above, or parents can email their child's form tutor / head of year.

To provide further support and guidance, we can arrange for your child to have a careers meeting with Mrs Dunn, or a one-to-one meeting with Miss Collins (Head of Year).

If you have any worries, please get in touch!

Key contacts:

Mr Crofts (Assistant Headteacher: Impact and Outcomes) – jcrofts@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk

Miss Collins (Head of Y9) – lcollins@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk

Mrs Dunn – (Careers Advisor) – sdunn@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk

Mrs Petters (Head of Sixth Form) – rpetters@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk

Reminder – Key Dates for Submitting Choices

- Pathways Form (Microsoft Form) emailed to pupils' school email addresses, as well as parents: **Thursday 29th January**
- Deadline for the return of completed Pathways Forms (electronically via Microsoft Form): **Monday 9th February (last week of this half-term)** – It is not first come, first served although the deadline is important. Late changes to subjects cannot always be accommodated

Post-16 Progression

After your GCSEs in Y11 you can progress on to:

- A-levels
- T-levels
- BTEC level 3
- Vocational qualifications
- An apprenticeship



FORGE
VALLEY
SIXTH FORM

**SEPTEMBER
2020 ENTRY**





Sixth Form - Entry Requirements

General requirements for entry: 5 grades at 9-4, including English Language and Maths

Some subjects have specific entry requirements in addition to the general requirements

A Level Subjects	Subject Specific Entry Requirement	A Level Subjects	Subject Specific Entry Requirement
Art	If studied Art at GCSE grade 4 +	Psychology	Must have achieved a GCSE 5+ in English and 4+ in Maths
Business	If studied Business at GCSE grade 4 +	Religious Studies / Philosophy & Ethics	Must have achieved a GCSE grade 5+ in English
Economics	Minimum of GCSE Grade 6 in Maths	Sociology	If studied Sociology at GCSE grade 4+
English Language	Minimum of GCSE grade 5 in English Language	Spanish	Minimum of GCSE grade 6 in Spanish
English Literature	Minimum of GCSE grade 5 in English Literature	Science: Biology	6+ in Biology, 6-6 in Combined and 5+ Maths
Geography	If studied Geography at GCSE grade 4 +	Science: Chemistry	6+ in Chemistry, 6-6 in Combined and 5+ Maths
History	If studied History at GCSE grade 5 +	Science: Physics	6+ in Physics, 6-6 in Combined and 5+ Maths
Maths	Minimum of GCSE grade 6 in Maths	Applied Subjects	Subject Specific Entry Requirement
Further Maths	Minimum of GCSE grade 7 in Maths	L3 Applied Diploma Criminology	<i>General requirements</i>
Core Maths	Minimum of GCSE grade 4 in Maths	BTEC Health and Social Care	<i>General requirements</i>
Media Studies	Minimum of GCSE grade 5 in English Lang/Lit	BTEC ICT	<i>General requirements</i>
Politics	Must have achieved a GCSE grade 5+ in English	BTEC Performing Arts	<i>General requirements and relevant performance skills</i>
Product Design	Minimum of GCSE grade 5 in DT or a Level 2 equivalent	BTEC Sport	<i>General requirements</i>

Sixth Form Courses: <https://www.forgevalley.school/sixth-form-courses>

Any questions?