

Welcome

The Piggott School
EAL Year 8 Options Evening

Wednesday 14th January 2026



EAL Team



Miss Sarah Parsons
Assistant Head & EAL Lead
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Mrs Aditi Shah
EAL Coordinator
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Mr Ben Lau
EAL Club Coordinator
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Our EAL Community

The Piggott School is committed to being an inclusive environment where we offer EAL children the very highest quality of education. We reflect and celebrate the diverse backgrounds and cultures that make up our school community and support families who come to live in our local area.



Secondary School Timeline

Key Stage 3

- Year 7 and 8

Key Stage 4

- Years 9 to 11

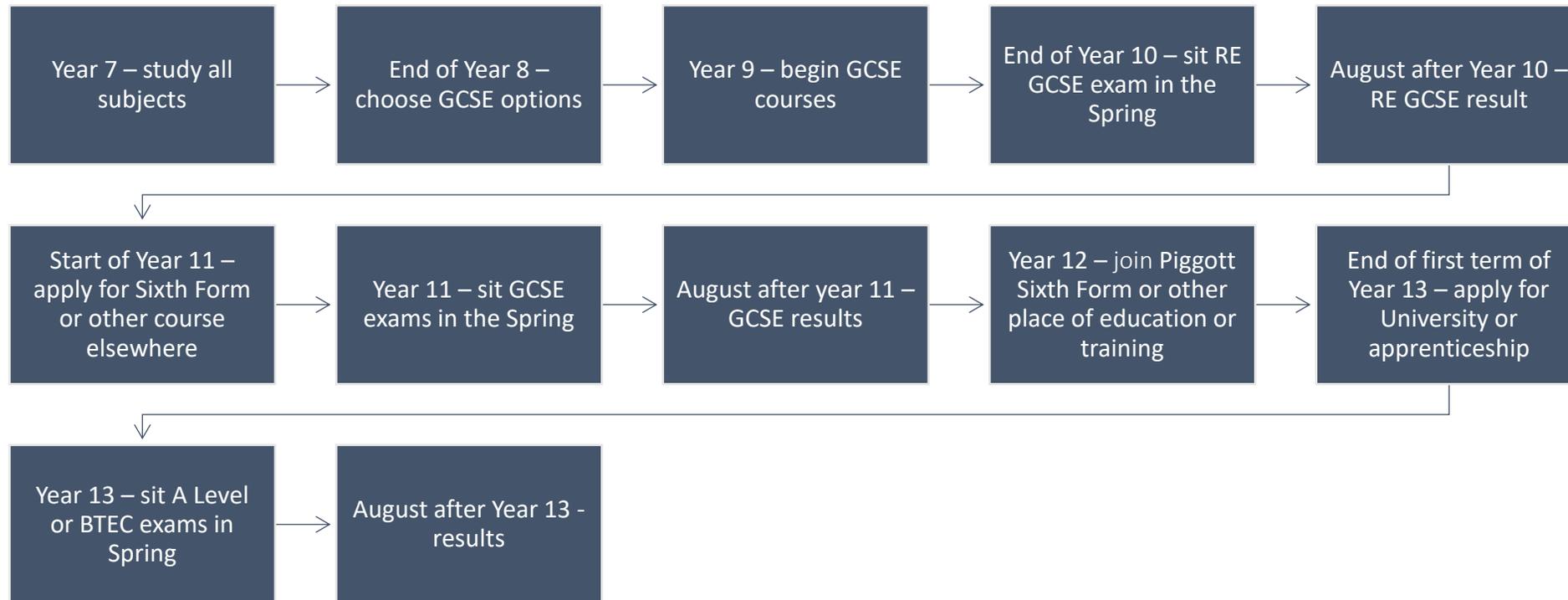
Key Stage 5

- Years 12 and 13 – also known as Sixth Form

Assessment Timetable

Stage	Year Group	Age Range	Assessments	Subjects
Key Stage 3	Year 7 and 8	11-12 12-13	Start of Year 7 and regularly throughout KS3. NGRT / CATs	English, Maths, Science, D&T, History, Geography, RE, Music, Drama, PE, MFL, Art
Key Stage 4	Year 9, 10 and 11	13-14 14-15 15-16	Ongoing internal assessments. May/June of Year 11 – GCSE (general Certificate of Secondary Education)	Core subjects; English, Maths, Science, RE. Optional subjects such as humanities, MFL and creative subjects
Key Stage 5	Year 12 and 13	16-17 17-18	A Level or vocational pathway	Three optional subjects

Timeline





GCSEs



GCSEs

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE).

It is an academic qualification in a range of particular subjects, taken in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Studies for GCSE examinations take place over a period of three academic years starting in Year 9 at The Piggott School with examinations being sat at the end of Year 11.

GCSE Grades

In England, GCSEs are graded using a numerical system from 9 to 1.

9 is the best grade possible.

Students will have needed a 4 for a "standard pass" and 5 for a "strong pass".

Many sixth forms insist on a minimum point score as a condition of entry for further study.

Choosing GCSE Options at The Piggott School

Compulsory Subjects:

- English Literature and Language
- Maths
- Science – Double or Triple
- Religious Studies GCSE (in keeping with the Christian Values and Character of our School)- taken in Year 10

- PSHE- No qualification
- Core PE- No qualification

The GCSE Options Process

Students will then choose **four** full course GCSE/Level 2 courses from the following list:

- Art & Design GCSE
- Business GCSE
- Chinese GCSE
- Computer Science GCSE
- Design & Technology GCSE
- Drama GCSE
- Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE
- French GCSE
- Further Maths Level 2 & Statistics GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- German GCSE
- History GCSE
- Media Studies GCSE
- Music GCSE
- Photography GCSE
- Physical Education GCSE
- Spanish GCSE

Careers Guidance

- Careers lessons in PSHCE
- Workshops on careers
- Specialist assemblies focusing on option choices
- Career sessions available with our career's guidance lead- Miss Smith
- One to one meeting with the Leadership Team/ EAL team to discuss options

Taking a GCSE in a student's first language

Students can take a GCSE exam in their first language, depending on the language.

These GCSE exams are in addition to the student's GCSE options.

E.g. a student whose first language is Chinese does not need to opt for Chinese GCSE. They can just do the exam.

These exams normally take place in Year 10.

Parents will be approached about this option in Year 9 by Mr. MacLeod, or by language staff. Please let me know if you'd like me to pass on your child's name.

Next Steps

- Thursday 15th January Year 8 Careers Website goes live
- Friday 30th January Deadline for option choices on Applica
- Early March Options discussions begins with Senior Leaders
- End of Summer Term Subjects confirmed

Next Steps: Website

- On 15th January the Piggott School website will open up a new area called 'Year 8 Options' under the Parent tab.



- There will be videos to watch for every subject, led by the Head of Department, to explain their GCSE course.
- Under each video will be a link to a Google form if you would like to ask a question about the course. The Head of Department will respond to your query asap.

Next Steps: Options Booklet

Key Stage 4 Options 2026-2029



Every Child Every Lesson Every Day

**The Key Stage 4
Curriculum
2026-2029**

Final Remarks

- ✓ Ensure you and your child thoroughly read the options booklet
- ✓ Any questions- fill in the google form under each department. Students to speak to teachers.
- ✓ Students are strongly advised to choose a modern foreign language
- ✓ The Piggott School try to provide students with all their option choices, and, unlike many schools, we offer a free choice to all
- ✓ The option blocks are built after students have made their choices rather than before
- ✓ Staffing issues and class size constraints mean that students will need to select a reserve option. This might replace one of your other choices if your choice combination is not possible. If this happens, we will discuss this with the student
- ✓ This reserve choice is to be included on the Options Preference form as a 5th choice

Parents Evening

Thursday
5th February

Parents are encouraged to make appointments with the subject teachers of any GCSE options your child is thinking of taking. You can then discuss the suitability of the course with them.

If a student is interested in a course that they do not currently take (e.g. Media Studies, Business Studies, Photography) the student should try to speak to a member of that department at break or lunchtime to discuss suitability and answer any questions.

Further Support



Mr Alex Macleod
Deputy Head
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Miss Sarah Parsons
Acting Assistant Head & EAL Lead
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Mrs Aditi Shah
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Mr Ben Lau
EAL Club Coordinator
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EAL Support:

Quality First
Teaching

Flash Academy
Assessment and
Support

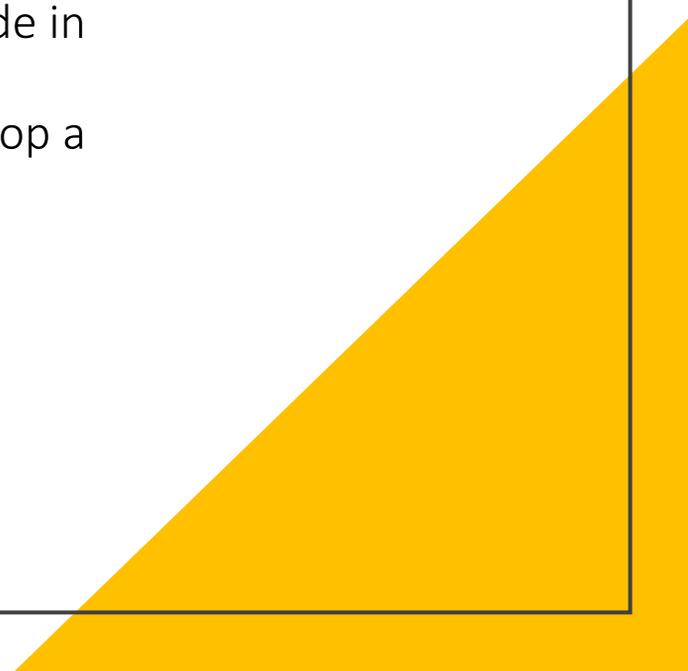
Targeted 1:1
Support

EAL After School
Club

Weekly Mentoring
with Sixth Form
students

EAL Afterschool Club

The aims of the club are:

- Share and celebrate students' own culture and heritage, encouraging pride in their identity
 - Ensuring an inclusive environment where students can flourish and develop a sense of belonging within the school and our wider community
 - Encourage English conversational skills
 - Increasing awareness of different cultures
 - Educating students about life and values in Britain
 - Getting to know other students and making friends
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EAL Afterschool Club

Activities :

- Annual newsletter
- Chinese New Year assembly
- Board games
- Arts and craft
- Theme of the week
- End of Year Party

Skills:

- Social Skills – Making friends in a new country
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Sharing and looking out for each other
- Building conversational skills and improving confidence



EAL Afterschool Club

Monday- Year 11 &12

Tuesday-Year 10

Wednesday -Year 9&10

Thursday- Year 8

Friday-Year 7

3-3.45pm in Room 34





Any Questions?

