

# Secondary school system in the UK

## Key Stage 3

- Year 7 ( 11-12 years old)
- Year 8 (12 -13 years old)
- Year 9 (13 – 14 years old) pupils choose GCSE subjects at the end of this year

## Key Stage 4 (start of GCSE courses)

- Year 10 (14 -15 years old)
- Year 11 ( 15 – 16 years old)
- GCSE exams
- End of compulsory education

## Academic year

The **English school year** runs from early September to late July. Most schools divide the year into three terms, each term divided into half-terms.

- Autumn term runs from early September to mid-December (first half term ends in late October with a one week holiday).
- Spring term runs from early January to Easter (half term ends in mid-February with a one week holiday).
- Summer term runs from Easter to mid-July (half term ends in late May with a one week holiday).

The Christmas holidays separate the Autumn and Spring terms, and the Easter holidays separate the Spring and Summer terms. Each holiday lasts about two weeks.

The summer holiday begins in late July and usually lasts about six weeks.

