

# Welcome:

Mrs Catherine Hammill  
Acting Head of School

St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy



# Housekeeping

- Evacuation: no planned fire drill; nearest exit is entrance used coming in tonight; assembly point Thornhill terrace; staff will direct you.





## Our School Prayer:

**Loving God,**

**Bless our school community here in St. Anthony's.**

**Let us follow in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley.**

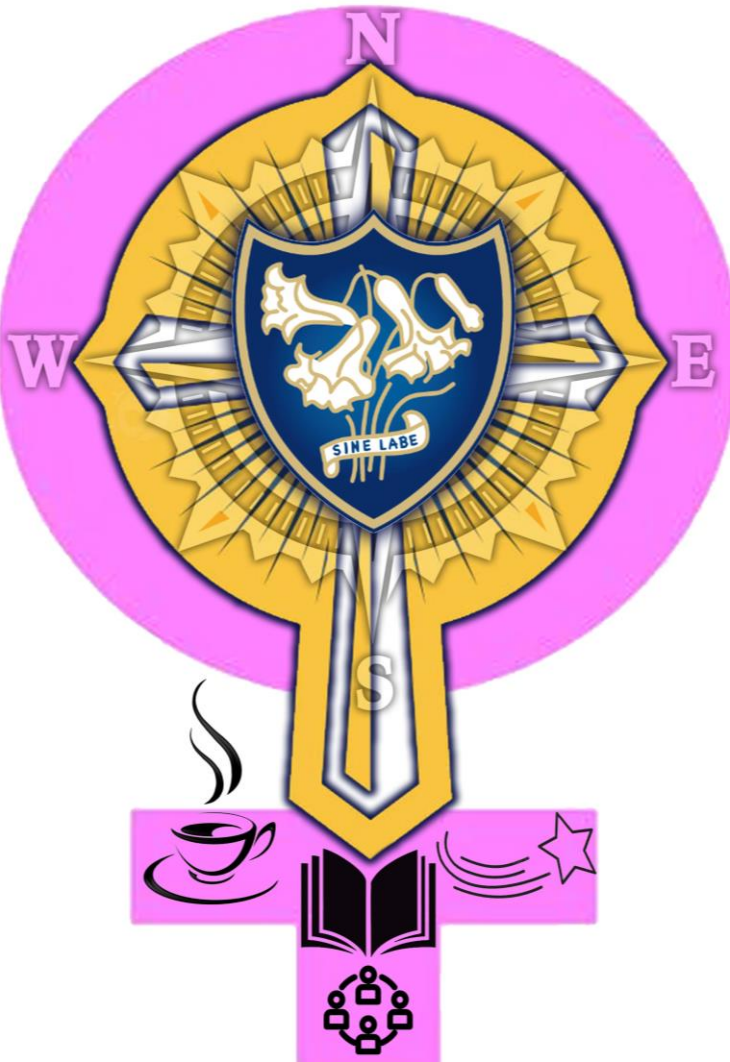
**May we be inspired by her determination to educate, empower and serve the poor.**

**Let us work together to create a just world in the true spirit of our Mercy tradition and as she said: "...to resolve to be good today but better tomorrow."**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**





## Mercy Academy Core Values

- Christ-centred
- Faith Enlightened
- Service to women and girls: educate and empower
- Build Communities
- Pursue Excellence

# SEND



- SENDCO – Mrs Catherine Dugdale
- Any student identified as needing exam access arrangements have been assessed and parents/carers have been notified of the outcome of any assessments.
- All parents and carers have been contacted this term to complete their child's SEN review. If you have any queries about the review process or SEND support please contact Mrs Dugdale.



# Well-being

- Wellbeing club
- Safe Space Club
- 5 ways to well-being (Take notice, give, connect, be active, keep learning)
- The Haven
- Form tutors, Head of Year/Key stage, Pastoral team, Pupil support cottage
- Listen, management strategies, links with external agencies.
- Kooth app, Anna Freud, Young minds, MIND




# Personal Development

As a Mercy Academy we are committed to forming the 'whole person':

- **Personal Development lesson** Friday p1: Health and Wellbeing, British Values, First Aid and E-Safety, Relationships and Sex Education, Work related learning.
- **52 Enrichment opportunities**: examples Duke of Edinburgh award, Creative Writing Club, Senior Choir, Football, Arts Award, Pupil Librarian Scheme, Safe Space and Empower, Dance.
- **Student leadership opportunities**: examples School Council, Eco-Committee, Peer mentoring, Pupil Chaplaincy.
- **External speakers**: examples Violence Reduction Unit, County Lines and Exploitation, apprenticeship and traineeship providers.
- **Trips and visits**: examples Flame, BCCET music events, Army youth challenge courses, July activities week.







# Year 9 Options Information Session for Parents and Carers

WELCOME!





# Overview

- What KS4 looks like at St. Anthony's
- Importance of options
- Our core subjects & types of qualification
- The options routes
- Choosing options – things to consider
- Moving forward
- Questions



# Key Stage 4 at St. Anthony's



***“To provide all students with the opportunity to reach their potential and prepare them for post-16 education, employment or training.”***



# Key Stage 4 at St. Anthony's



**Core  
Subjects**

**Options:  
GCSE**

**Options:  
Vocational**





# Options – why do they matter?

- To ensure that students are equipped with the qualifications needed to move on and be successful
- To open doors to as many further/higher education and employment opportunities as possible
- To ensure that we build a range of transferrable skills by studying a variety of subjects



# Core Subjects

- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE English Language & Literature
- GCSE Religious Education
- GCSE Combined/Triple Science
- GCSE History or Geography
- Core PE (not examined)



# GCSE Courses



- Graded 9-1
- Assessment is usually terminal in the form of examination papers
- There is a coursework component in a minority of subjects, which is usually completed under controlled conditions
- Require large bulks of knowledge to be recalled and understood





# Vocational Courses

- Graded using a vocational system (Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit, Pass); one vocational grade is equivalent to a GCSE
- Assessment is usually a combination of portfolio work and terminal examination papers
- Often work-related, and are valued by further education institutions and colleges





# Curriculum Routes



# Route one: EBacc



# Route one: EBacc

The desire of the government is to ensure both balance and academic rigour. The aim is to produce well rounded students, with skills in a broad range of curriculum areas.



# Route one: EBacc

## Core

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- RE
- Science
- Core PE

\*If your child would like to study a different language to the language they have studied in years 7-9 please ask them to see Mrs Marshall (Head of MFL).

## Options

- History
- Geography

### Block A

- Spanish\*
- French\*

### Block B

- 2<sup>nd</sup> humanity
- 2<sup>nd</sup> language
- Computer Science
- Art & Design – Fine Art
- Art & Design – Photography
- Food and Nutrition
- Music
- BTEC Business & Enterprise
- BTEC Sport
- Design Technology – Product Design
- Design Technology - Textiles

### Block C



# Route one: EBacc

Who is this route suitable for?

- **Based on a range of assessment data and feedback from subject teachers** we will identify which students are suitable for the EBacc route
- Our priority is for all students to experience academic success; with this in mind we use a combination of progress data and teacher assessment to ensure students are guided to the most appropriate pathway and option choices.

# Route two: Humanities





# Route two: Humanities



This route combines core subjects, GCSE option subjects and vocational subjects:

- English Language & English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science
- A humanities subject (History or Geography)
- Two other option subjects





# Route two: Humanities

## Core

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- RE
- Science
- Core PE

## Options



### Block A

- History
- Geography

### Block B

- Spanish
- French
- 2<sup>nd</sup> humanity
- Design Technology – Product Design or Textiles
- Art & Design – Photography
- BTEC Business & Enterprise

### Block C

- Computer Science
- Art & Design – Fine Art
- Art & Design – Photography
- Food and Nutrition
- Music
- BTEC Business & Enterprise
- BTEC Sport
- Design Technology – Product Design or Textiles





# Directing our students along the best path

It is essential that students embark on a path that not only allows them to reach their potential, but also offers them the opportunity to progress their learning post-16.





# Directing our students along the best path

To this end, through careful assessment and evaluation, we will steer the students towards a path that fulfils this aim. We use a range of data to support us in making this decision: Performance in languages

Prior attainment

KS3 modular assessments

Performance in core subjects

Professional judgement of teaching staff



# Aspiration for all students at St. Anthony's

- A minimum of 5 grades at or above level 5 or equivalent including English & Mathematics
- Grade 6 or better in subjects that students wish to study at A-Level
- Merit or better in vocational subjects that students wish to study at Level 3





# Course developments

We are continually reviewing our provision to ensure that we offer a broad range of courses, which are of the highest quality and prepare students fully for their next steps.

We are exploring the possibility of introducing Health and Social Care as an option for September 2023. This depends upon a number of factors, including recruitment, and so is currently unavailable as an option choice. Further information will be available in due course.





# Choosing your options - *do choose* courses if...

- They fit your interests
- You think you will enjoy them
- They go well with your other courses
- They link to a career aspiration that you have
- Will support you to continue studying post-16
- Will help you meet entry requirement for courses post-16



# Choosing your options - *do not choose* courses if...

- It's just because your friends are choosing the same ones
- You think it will be easier than another course
- You like the teacher that you have now





# Options: communication

- Your child's options route will be communicated via text on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
- This text will include a link to the options choices form, to be submitted via Google Form.
- Options booklets, containing all course information, will be distributed to students on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and can be found online.
- If you have any queries regarding options please contact your child's year leader in the first instance.



# Options: next steps



- Read the options booklet for your child's allocated pathway.
- Have in-depth discussions about the subjects that your child might like to choose, using the information provided in the options booklet to help.
- Research the different courses online.
- Think about what might be needed for post-16 study.





# Options: key dates

- Options booklets – distributed Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Options forms – link will be sent via text on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Parents' Evening: Thursday 09 March (virtual: SchoolCloud)
- Options forms must be submitted via Microsoft Form by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- Confirmation of options will follow via letter. Letters will be sent shortly after May half term.





# Have a lovely evening

*If you have any questions,  
please don't hesitate to ask*

