



Year 9 Options Information Session for Parents and Carers

Mr M McDonagh

WELCOME!



Overview

- What KS4 looks like at St. Anthony's
- Importance of options
- Our core subjects & types of qualification
- The options routes
- Choosing options – dos and don'ts
- 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 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/Separate Science
- GCSE History or Geography
- Core PE (not examined)
- PHSE (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 at Level 2 is equivalent to a GCSE grades 9-4, a Level 1 is equivalent to a GCSE grades 3-1
- 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
- PHSE

*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 Robertson (Head of MFL).

- A maximum of two class per Block C subject unless indicated & excluding languages and humanities

Options

- History
- Geography

Block A

- Spanish*
- French*

Block B

- 2nd humanity (History/Geography)
- 2nd language (French/Spanish)
- Computer Science^{^(1)}
- Art & Design – Fine Art
- Art & Design – Photography
- Food and Nutrition
- Music^{^(1)}
- BTEC Business & Enterprise
- BTEC Sport
- Design Technology – Product Design
- Design Technology – Textiles
- Sociology

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
- At St Anthony's all students who have this aptitude will be placed onto this route



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
- PHSE

Options



Block A

- History
- Geography

Block B

- Spanish
- French
- 2nd humanity (Geography/History)
- Computer Science⁽¹⁾
- Art & Design – Fine Art
- Art & Design – Photography
- Food and Nutrition
- Music⁽¹⁾
- BTEC Business & Enterprise
- BTEC Sport
- Design Technology – Product Design
- Design Technology – Textiles
- Sociology

- A maximum of two class per Block C subject unless indicated & excluding languages and humanities





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





When will I know which route my child will follow?

We plan to let students know which path they will be asked to follow by an email communication to parents on Friday 9th February 2024



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 Post-16
- Merit or better in vocational subjects that students wish to study at Post-16





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





Completing the On-line Options Form

- EBAC Route

Block A	Geography or History
Block B	Spanish or French your current language
Block C	You will be asked to make 2 choices for the one available subject.

The two choices will be 1st and 2nd preference. We will always endeavour to give students their 1st choice, but it cannot be guaranteed. When this is not possible we will speak to the student and parents/carer.





Completing the On-line Options Form

- Humanities Route

Block A

Geography or History

Block B

You will be asked to make 3 choices for the two subject spaces.

The three choices will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference. We will always endeavour to give students their 1st and 2nd choice, but it cannot be guaranteed. When this is not possible we will speak to the student and parents/carers



Viability of Courses

Sometimes, for whatever reason courses may not recruit enough students to make it educationally viable to run.

In these cases we may choose to withdraw the offer of a course.

Equally we may not be able to offer classes in a subject area due to a staffing change.

In these circumstances parent/carers and the student will be informed and will be allowed to re-choose their option choices.



Options: communication

- Your child's options route will be communicated via email on Friday 9th February 2024.
- Options booklets, containing all course information, will be distributed to students on Friday 9th February and can be found online.
- Options forms – link will be sent via email to both parents and student on Friday 23rd February 2024 – a different link for each route.
- If you have any queries regarding options please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance.



Options: next steps



- Discuss your child's performance in subjects with their teachers on Parent's Evening
- 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 and on the academy website to help.



Options: next steps



- Research the different courses online.
- Students should listen carefully at the assembly when new subjects present information about their subjects
- If you are unsure about new courses please contact the subject leads to discuss one to one what the subject entails
- Think about what might be needed for post-16 study.



Get your decisions correct

- Once we begin the timetabling of classes after Easter we cannot change option choices unless there is an special circumstance.
- We cannot change subjects in September when the new year.





Options: key dates

- Options booklets – distributed Friday 9th February 2024.
- Your child's options route will be communicated via email on Friday 9th February 2024
- Monday 19th February Year 9 Parents Night
- Options forms – link will be sent via email to both parents and student on Friday 23rd February 2024.
- Options forms must be submitted via Google form by Friday 22nd March 2024.
- Confirmation of options will follow via letter. Letters will be sent after May half term.



Any Questions?





Thank You for attending this evening and we wish you a safe journey home.

God Bless

If you have any individual questions, please don't hesitate to ask as you leave

