



St Benedict's
Catholic High School, Alcester

Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 14 Feb 2019

Beginning the next step of your academic journey



The new specification GCSEs & BTECs



- GCSEs have become harder with more challenging content.
- The percentage of marks for coursework has reduced or even been eliminated in some subjects but the number of exams has increased significantly.
- The pressures that this places on students is clear; tougher exams and more of them than ever before in the qualification's history! Parents and students can help by making sure that they are well-organised, do their homework, attend revision sessions when they are offered, ensure their overall attendance is high and make the most of each and every lesson.

DfE: Pupils with no absence are nearly 3 times more likely to get 5 strong GCSEs than pupils with an attendance of 85%

Attendance and Punctuality

Prof. Carole Dweck, Stamford University: Attitude is more important than intelligence to exam success

Attitude to Learning

Organisation at school and at home

Reading anything!

NFER: Pupils who do their homework do better in exams, especially if their parents support them

British Cohort Study of 17 000 people: Reading for pleasure improves not just literacy but maths ability too



The new specification GCSEs & BTECs



- The school has made some significant changes in order to respond to these pressures in order to help students be as successful as they can.
- By reducing the number of options to three subjects, students will study nine GCSEs rather than ten or eleven as for previous years.
- As a result of reducing the option choices we have been able to increase the teaching time for not only core subjects, but also for option subjects. More teaching time and fewer exams should mean that students have the best possible chance of achieving their full potential.



Core Subjects

- English Language and English Literature (2 GCSE grades)
- Maths
(1 GCSE grade)
- Science
(Double Award – 2 GCSE grades,
Triple Science – 3 GCSE grades)
- Religious Education
(1 GCSE Grade)
- Core PE

Compulsory subjects	Maths	✓
	English Language	✓
	English Literature	✓
	Religious Education	✓
	Double Science (equates to two GCSE grades) <i>*unless Triple Science is selected as an option</i>	✓
	Core PE	✓



The importance of the EBacc



HM Government

- The government's ambition is to see 90% of GCSE pupils choosing the EBacc subject combination by 2025.
- A study by the Sutton Trust reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.
- Research by the UCL Institute of Education shows that taking the EBacc enhances prospects for entering further education or employment.
- The EBacc is also important to help young people succeed in a global economy where having a language qualification is advantageous to careers on the international stage.

EBacc core academic element	GCSE requirements for EBacc
English	GCSE English (Language) and GCSE English Literature
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics
Science	GCSE Combined Science or three of GCSE Biology GCSE Chemistry GCSE Physics GCSE Computer Science
Humanities	GCSE Geography or GCSE History
A modern foreign language	GCSE Spanish



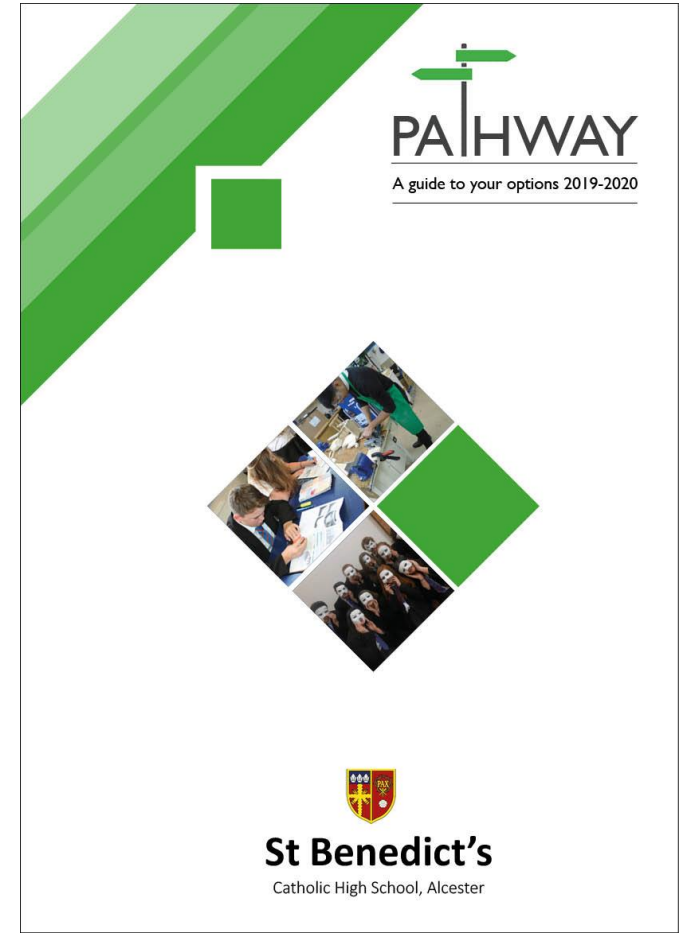
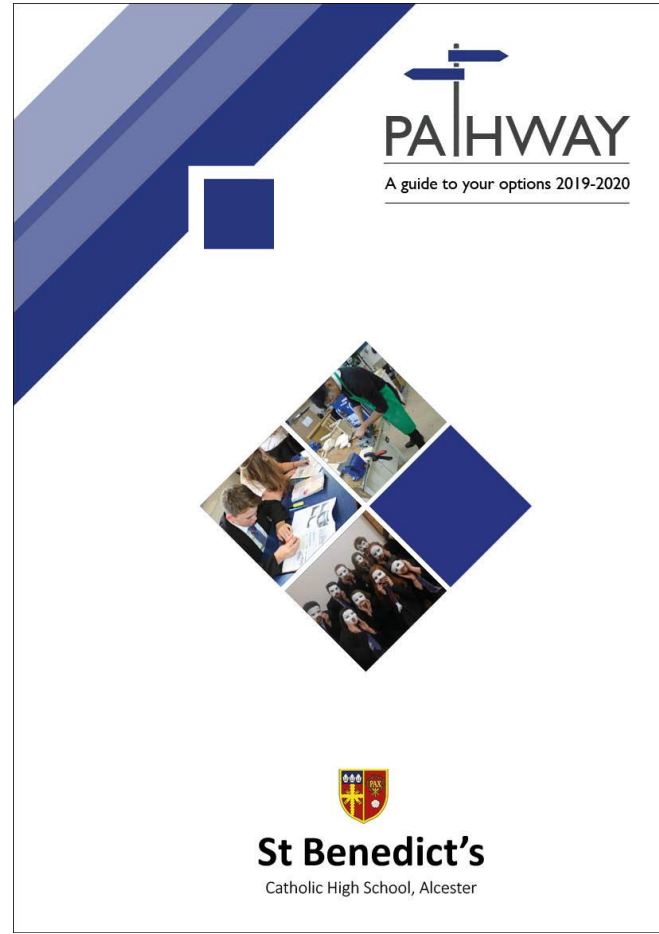
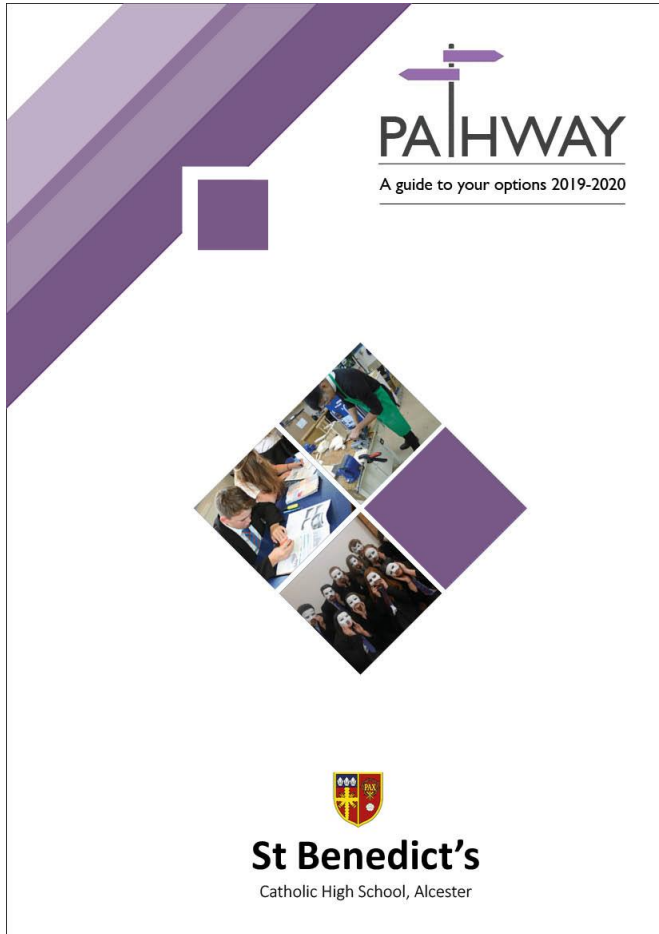
Options Pathways

- We all come in different sizes! We have different academic abilities, different strengths and areas to develop, different aspirations and interests. Some of us will be doctors, some of us will be builders, some of us may be health care assistants or hair stylists. Each of us and our aspirations are equally important.
- In order for students to choose the most appropriate subjects for their ability and to help them be successful in their studies, students have been placed on three different pathways.
- In order to make the decision about the correct pathway for each student, we have used externally verified data of their academic performance and subject teacher feedback.
- Students have a wide variety of choice regardless of the pathway they are on.





Your Guide to your Options





Purple Pathway

- Students on the purple pathway are eligible to take Triple Science and Computer Science. If they wish to take Triple Science, this will count as one of their three option choices.
- Students on this pathway are strongly encouraged to take the EBacc Options subjects:
 - MFL (Spanish)
 - History/Geography

Essential subjects for EBacc:	Spanish <i>*you must select this option in order to gain the EBACC</i>	
	History <i>*you must select History and/or Geography to gain the EBACC</i>	
	Geography <i>*you must select History and/or Geography in to gain the EBACC</i>	
Non-EBacc Subjects	Computer Science	
	Triple Science	
	Psychology	
	Food	
	Design technology: Resistant Materials	
	Design technology: Textiles	
	Business	
	Art	
	Music	
PE		

PATHWAY
A guide to your options 2019-2020

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Blue Pathway

- Students on the Blue pathway will take Double Science which will mean that they have three option choices.
- It is envisaged that many students on this pathway will choose EBacc subjects:
 - MFL (Spanish)
 - History/Geography

Essential subjects for EBacc:	Spanish <i>*you must select this option in order to gain the EBACC</i>	
	History <i>*you must select History and/or Geography to gain the EBACC</i>	
	Geography <i>*you must select History and/or Geography in to gain the EBACC</i>	
Non-EBacc Subjects	Psychology	
	Food	
	Design technology: Resistant Materials	
	Design technology: Textiles	
	Business	
	Art	
	Music	
	PE	
	Film Studies	
	Drama	
Health & Social Care		

PATHWAY
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Green Pathway

- Students on this pathway will take Double Science but will not take MFL/Spanish.
- Students on this pathway are however strongly encouraged to take one or both Ebacc subjects:
 - History
 - Geography

EBacc subjects:	History	
	Geography	
Other subjects	Food	
	Design technology: Resistant Materials	
	Design technology: Textiles	
	Business	
	Retail Business	
	ICT	
	Art	
	Music	
	PE	
	Film Studies	
	Drama	
	Health & Social Care	
	Travel & Tourism	

PATHWAY
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Key things to remember when completing your Options Preference Form

- Use the Options Booklet and discuss the combination of subjects you would like to choose with your tutors, subject teachers and parents.
- Make sure that you include at least one reserve choice. This is important because courses may not run if we have insufficient numbers or they may not be enough places on particular courses.
- Select **THREE** option choices. Remember the importance of Ebacc subjects when making your selection.
- Ensure that there is a student and parent's signature on the form.
- Return the form to the main office no later than **Monday 11 March**.



Key Principles for Studying at Key Stage 4

- Be **well organised** and complete all homework and assignments from the outset. Don't let things slip and build up.
- Be **resilient** – sometimes your studies are going to be difficult. Learning can be difficult. No-one is permitted to 'drop' subjects they find difficult so resilience and perseverance is key. Ask your teachers for help if you are struggling.
- Be **positive** – believe in yourself, try your best and make the most of every lesson.
- If after trying your very best, you would like to change an option subject that you have chosen, you must request an option change by having your parent email eldridge.c@st-benedicts.org by **Thursday 17 October**.

No requests for option changes will be permitted after this date as you will have missed too much of the course content to catch up.



Support for helping you make the right option choices for you:

Key Dates:

Thurs 14 Feb

4:00 – 7:15pm Year 9 Parents' Evening & Options Information

26 Feb – 5 Mar Careers Week:

Wed 27 Feb Senior Staff Meetings with students

Thurs 28 Feb Careers Information Session for all year 9 students

All week Subject Information Talks

Mon 11 Mar Options Preferences deadline for submission

Thurs 17 Oct Final deadline for application to change course

KEY DATES

