

Year 9 Options: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between Pathway 1 and Pathway 2?

This is explained in detail in the welcome video. The essential difference is this:

Pathway 1 is our EBacc pathway. The EBacc is a set of subjects that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The subjects are: English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, Geography or History and a Language (French at TGBS). Pupils are able to choose to study separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) if they are on Pathway 1. Everyone else will study Combined Science which is worth two GCSEs.

You can find out more about the EBacc on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>

It is the government's intention for as many people as possible to take EBacc subjects.

Pathway 2 still allows pupils to choose the same EBacc subjects as Pathway 1 if they want to.

How can I tell if my son is on Pathway 1 or Pathway 2?

All pupils have been emailed through their school email address. When you open the link to the option form it will clearly say which pathway your son is on.

Why is my son on his particular Pathway?

The pathway your son is taking is based on the data we have collected regarding his potential to achieve success in the subjects offered within that pathway.

Can I choose to do a different Pathway?

Your Pathway is fixed and you cannot change from one Pathway to another.

Why are all Pathway 1 pupils taking a language?

Languages keep doors open, help pupils to achieve more highly in other subjects (especially English) and people with languages qualifications will be increasingly sought by employers in our post-Brexit society.

If my son is on Pathway 2, will this change his sets for core subjects?

Sets for core subjects (English, Maths and Science) are not determined by pupils being on either Pathway. This means, for instance, that in the same core subject group you could have pupils on Pathway 1 and Pathway 2 sitting next to each other. Core subjects are set based on pupils' past and present performance. Sets are regularly reviewed to make sure pupils are receiving the targeted guidance they require to make progress.

Why is triple Science now an option subject?

Previously, the school has selected the pupils who can study Triple Science and we have used attainment data to inform these decisions. However, with the change to options available to pupils, some pupils decided that they wanted to use their choices for different subjects. Triple Science allows you to specialise in the three areas of Science and would be useful if you are considering taking a Science at A-Level. You may be asked to complete an additional assessment if you choose Triple Science as an option to inform your suitability.