

## **Year 9 Options: Frequently Asked Questions 2023**

### **What is the difference between the pathways?**

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

Pathway 1 is our first Ebacc Pathway. The only difference between Pathway 1 and 2 is that on this pathway pupils will study Triple Sciences.

This Pathway 2 is our second EBacc pathway. On this pathway pupils will study Combined Science.

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).

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

### **How can I tell which pathway my son is on?**

All pupils will have received a personalised letter at the Year 9 Options Evening or at the catch up assembly. You will also be able to see which pathway has been assigned when the form is emailed to you via 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 and 2 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 3, 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 any pathway 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.