

# Introduction

The options process in Year 9 arrives at an important point in your learning. Now is the time to focus on your aspirations and future goals and make decisions that will help you to achieve these aims.

The idea of making decisions that will impact on your future can be extremely daunting. We understand this and have put together a programme of information, advice and guidance to help you make the most informed decisions possible.

One of the most important factors to consider whilst making your choices is the progress that you are making in your different subjects. This makes your most recent reports and assessments exceptionally important as these will form the basis of the conversations that you will have with your form tutors, teachers and parents over the coming weeks.

# Options

2021

This booklet includes information that will support you in making your options choices. You should use it to understand what different subjects have to offer and to see how each fits in with your future aspirations.

Alongside reading the important information enclosed, I would also advise you to explore the “Futures In...” booklet which will help you develop an idea of the different jobs and careers that each subject can lead you towards.



# How do I choose?

Year 9 is a truly crucial time in your school life, even more so in the current climate. The subjects and qualifications you will study in Years 10 and 11 will affect how you spend your time during your next two years at SSPP and also help to lay foundations for your future learning and career. It needs careful thought.

If you have a firm career idea, research it and choose your options accordingly. Remember, no qualification is ever wasted. If you don't have a career in mind at this stage – you just need to choose subjects and courses that will give you plenty of choice later on. Choose the subjects that you enjoy!

Please remember that the more information you have the easier and better your decisions will be. So ask lots of questions of staff and students and we look forward to seeing and speaking to you all about your options soon.

# Options

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Good reasons for choosing an option:

- ⇒ You are good at the subject
- ⇒ It fits your career ideas and plans
- ⇒ It goes well with your other choices
- ⇒ It helps to give you plenty of choice after Year 11
- ⇒ You think you might want to continue studying it after Year 11
- ⇒ You know that it will interest you and motivate you to work hard and to learn.



Mr Barr

# Three Key Pathways

# Options

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The Key Stage 4 Options at St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy are designed to provide students with a broad and balanced curriculum that best meets the individual needs and aspirations of all students. We aim to provide our learners with the skills and qualifications to carry onto the next stage in their career; whether Sixth Form, college, apprenticeship or further training.

## **Academic**

Students will take GCSEs and aim to achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

## **Academic Vocational**

Students will opt for a range of GCSEs, BTEC or OCR vocational subjects.

## **Access**

Students will be guided in their options for Entry Level/Level 1 and 2 in vocational subjects along with skills for personal and working life. Additional support for numeracy and literacy will be built into their curriculum provision.

## **EBacc**

Is not a qualification in it's own right. It is a combination of GCSE subjects, including a foreign language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

This combination of GCSE subjects are considered to best prepare students for Further and Higher Education. We advise this route for students thinking of progressing to A Levels and then possibly university.



# Types of Subjects

# Options

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## The Core

The core subjects are followed by all students:

Religious Education,  
English Language and Literature,  
Mathematics,  
Science (separates or combined).

They provide the essential basis for further study.

All Students will also take part in core Physical Education.

## EBacc

Core GCSE English Language and Literature, Mathematics,  
at least 2 Sciences,

**PLUS** at least 1 humanities, either History or Geography,

**AND** at least 1 MFL, either Spanish or French

GCSE Computing is also an EBacc subject.

## Open Subjects

a range of GCSE and Level 2 vocational qualifications:

Art,  
Business,  
Creative iMedia,  
Drama,  
Food Technology,  
Health & Social Care,  
Music,  
Photography,  
Sport Studies.



# What is the difference?

# Options

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## GCSE or BTEC/OCR Vocational

In Key Stage 4, there are two types of qualification we offer:

**GCSEs** are the traditional linear examination subjects. Assessment is usually through final written examinations at the end of Year 11.

These are graded from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest).

**Vocational qualifications** are often work-related and require the completion of a portfolio of work as well as a written examination.

The grades are comparable to GCSE:

Level 2 Distinction\* (GCSE 8+), Distinction (GCSE 7), Merit (GCSE 5/6), Pass (GCSE 4).

Level 1 vocational qualifications are comparable to GCSE grades 3 to 1.



# Timeline

# Options

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## ***Y9 Options briefing:***

Letter via email to all Y9 students (31st March)

## ***Y9 Subject Information:***

Available on website

## ***Y9 Options discussions:***

During Personal Development lessons; with form tutors and/or Mr Barr  
w/c 19th April and w/c 26th April

## ***Y9 Options form:***

Microsoft form to be emailed by 22nd April; return by 30th April

## ***Y9 Options allocations:***

Confirmation letters issued by Friday 11th June

