



**St Benedict's**  
Catholic High School, Alcester

# Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 13 Feb 2020

*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.



# 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	✓

- All students will study these core subjects equating to six GCSEs (unless they have opted to study Triple Science as an option)
  - Students will choose **THREE options subjects** from the choices provided on their pathway.
- In total, students will leave St Benedict's with nine GCSEs or equivalent.



# 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) <b>and</b> GCSE English Literature
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics
Science	GCSE Combined Science <b>or three of</b> GCSE Biology GCSE Chemistry GCSE Physics GCSE Computer Science
Humanities	GCSE Geography <b>or</b> GCSE History
A modern foreign language	GCSE Spanish



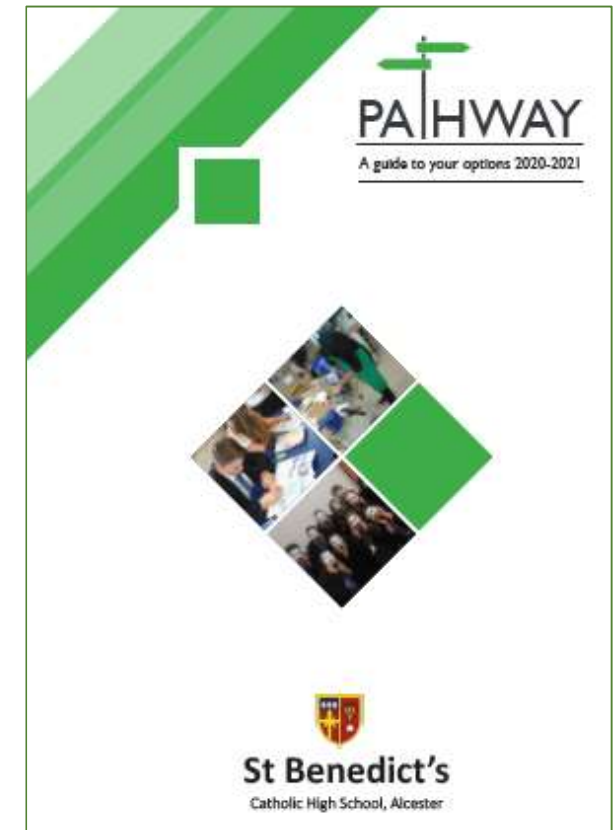
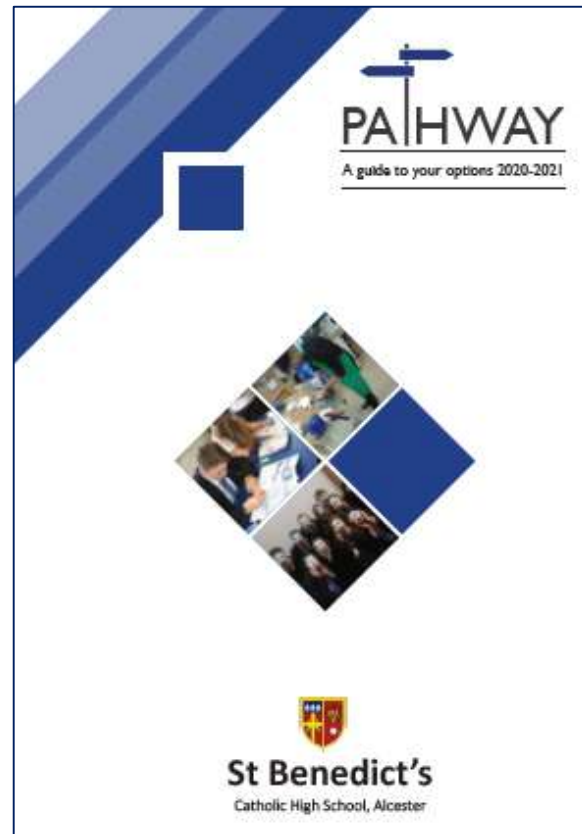
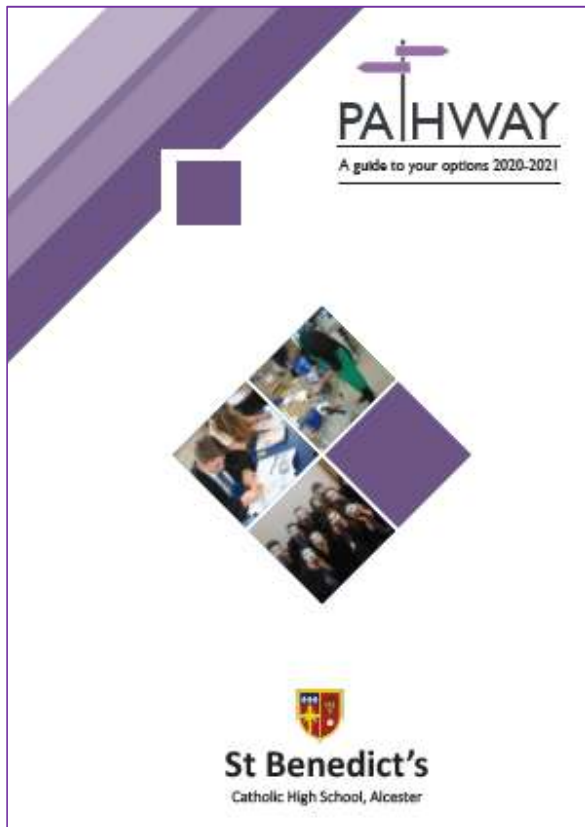
# Options Pathways

- 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

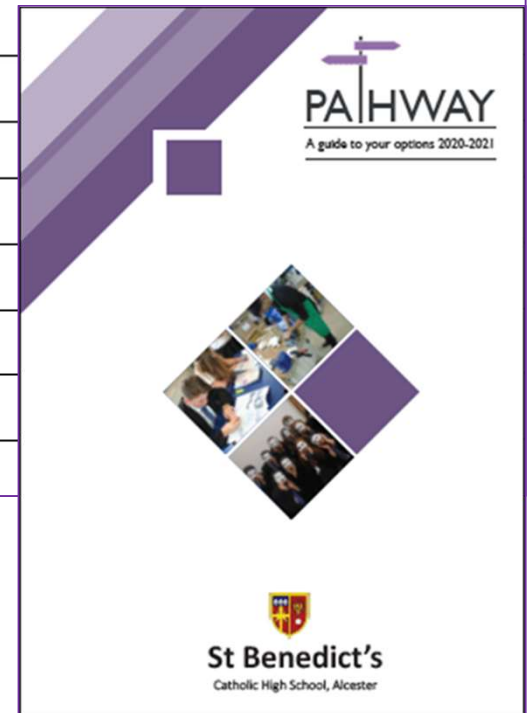




# Purple Pathway

- 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

<b>Essential subjects for EBacc:</b>	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 to gain the EBACC</i>
<b>Non-essential EBacc subjects &amp; others:</b>	Computer Science
	Triple Science
	Psychology
	Food
	Design Technology
	Film Studies
	Textiles Design
	Business
	Art
	Music
PE	



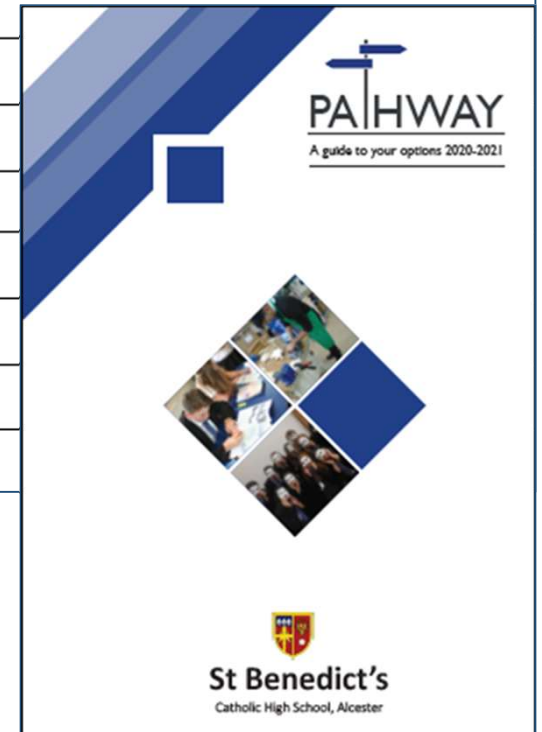




# Blue Pathway

- 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

<b>Essential subjects for EBacc:</b>	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 to gain the EBACC</i>
<b>Non-EBacc Subjects:</b>	Psychology
	Food
	Design Technology
	Textiles Design
	Business
	Film Studies
	Art
	Music
	PE
Health & Social Care	






# 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

<b>EBacc subjects:</b>	History
	Geography
<b>Non- EBacc subjects:</b>	Food
	Design Technology
	Textiles Design
	Business
	Film Studies
	Art
	Music
	PE
	Health & Social Care
	Travel & Tourism





This year we are using an on-line options choice process.



- The letter you received in your school report details how you can connect **on-line** in order to make your option selections.
- The school website under '**Teaching & Learning**' and '**Year 9 Options**' shows you your pathway booklet and a guide to selecting your options on-line.
- If you have any further '**on-line**' queries, then you can email:



[optionsonline@st-benedicts.org](mailto:optionsonline@st-benedicts.org)



(If you do **not** have access to a computer, then please advise the front office who will be able to offer you a paper version).



## Key things to remember when completing your on-line Options Preferences

- 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 (preferably two). 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 parent/carer's approval has been selected on-line.  Parent/Carer Approval
- Complete your option preferences on-line no later than **Wednesday 04 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](mailto:eldridge.c@st-benedicts.org) by **Thursday 15 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:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Tues 11 Feb  | Careers Information Sessions on drop down day                   |
| Thurs 13 Feb | 4:00 – 6:30 pm<br>Year 9 Parents' Evening & Options Information |
| Wed 04 Mar   | Options Preferences deadline for on-line submission             |
| Thurs 15 Oct | Final deadline for application to change course                 |

## KEY DATES



## Who to contact

- Jackie Holmes – Head of Careers

[holmes.j5@st-benedicts.org](mailto:holmes.j5@st-benedicts.org)

- Cathy Eldridge – Assistant Headteacher

[eldridge.c@st-benedicts.org](mailto:eldridge.c@st-benedicts.org)

- Options **on-line** queries

[optionsonline@st-benedicts.org](mailto:optionsonline@st-benedicts.org)