Giving students the competitive edge:
Options 2022/23

The EBaccalaureate (EBacc) Parent and Student Guide

What is the EBacc?

The EBaccalaureate is not a qualification in its own right – it is a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills.

These core subjects make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep your career options open. These are known as the five pillars of the EBacc:

1. English Language and English Literature
2. Maths
3. Combined Science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Science
4. A language
5. History or Geography (Humanities)

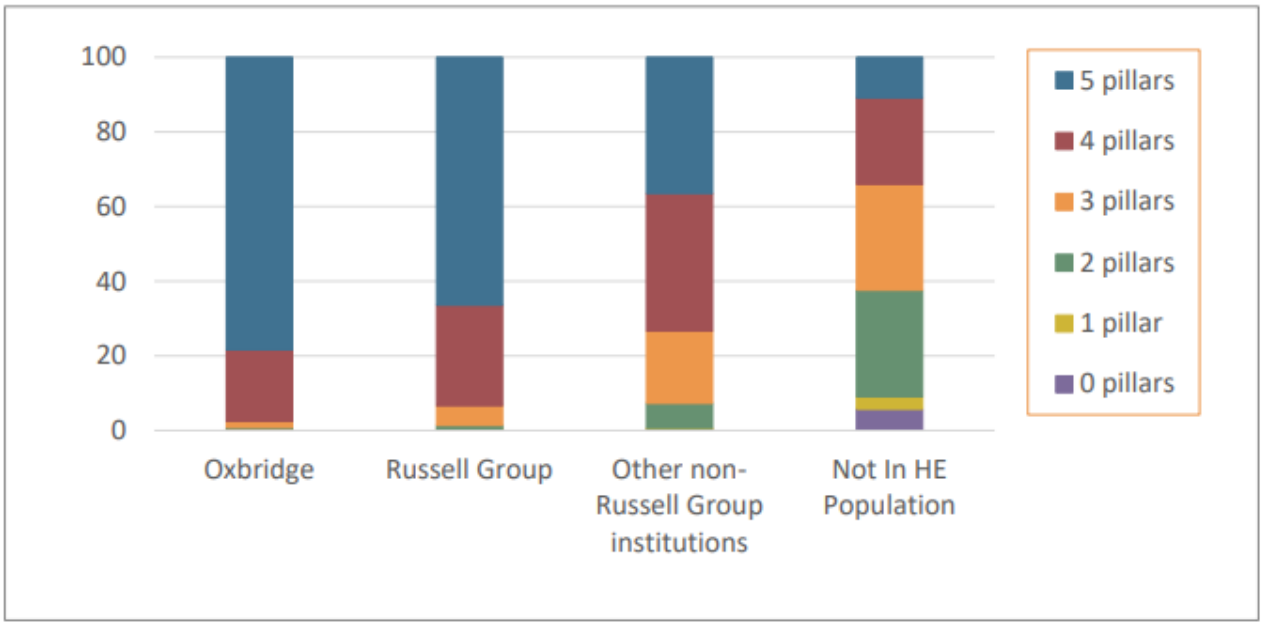
Whilst you may not have decided on your future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives you access to a fuller range of employment options when you leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If you are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities – Oxford, Cambridge and the 24 Russell Group universities.

Higher Education Prospects

- 92% of 2012 KS4 pupils who entered an undergraduate course at an Oxbridge college entered the EBacc language pillar and 88% entered the humanity pillar. 78% of these pupils entered **the full EBacc combination** of subjects.

• 82% of 2012 KS4 pupils who entered an undergraduate course at a Russell Group university entered the EBacc language pillar and 82% entered the humanity pillar. 66% of these pupils **entered the full EBacc combination** of subjects.

Figure 1: The percentage of pupils entering the EBacc across the four HE institution groupings



Languages give young people the competitive edge

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden students' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments. If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will **greatly enhance their future opportunities**. What's more, we know that **employers value languages**, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes.

Language skills can be a significant competitive advantage that sets students apart from their monolingual peers. They are among the top eight skills required of *all* occupations—no matter your sector or skill level—and the demand for bilingual professionals is rising exponentially. In financial terms, studies show the accumulated bonuses that are forecast as a result of being able to speak a modern foreign language.

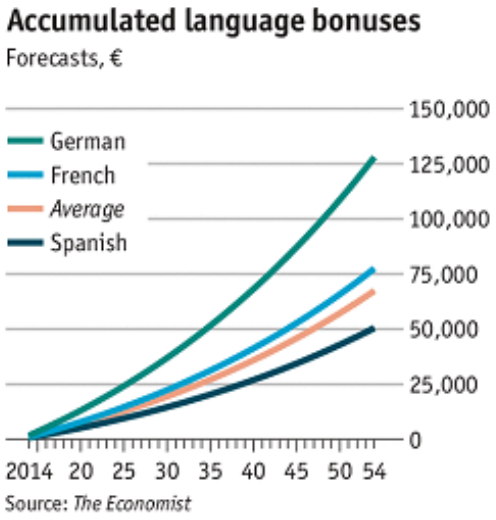
"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities. (The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce



The many cognitive benefits of learning languages are undeniable. People who speak more than one language have improved memory, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, enhanced concentration, ability to multitask, and better listening skills. They switch between competing tasks and monitor changes in their environment more easily than monolinguals, as well as display signs of greater creativity and flexibility. If that weren't enough, as we age, being bilingual or multilingual also helps to stave off mental aging and cognitive decline.

Language is the most direct connection to other cultures. Being able to communicate in another language exposes us to and fosters an appreciation for the traditions, religions, arts, and history of the people associated with that language. Greater understanding, in turn, promotes greater tolerance empathy, and acceptance of others—with studies showing that children who have studied another language are more open toward and express more positive attitudes toward the culture associated with that language.

Travelling as a speaker of the local language can revolutionise a trip abroad. While monolingual travellers are capable of visiting the same places, travellers who know more than one language are more easily able to navigate outside the tourist bubble and to connect and interact with the place and its people in a way that is often inaccessible to those without the language. Learning a second language also opens additional doors to opportunities for studying or working abroad.

EBacc Success at Trinity in 2022

For the following EBacc subjects the average point score was in the highest 20% of schools nationally and the proportion of entries was at or above the national average: English language, English literature, history, mathematics, double science, physics.

The percentage of students achieving a grade 4+ in science (85%) was significantly above national and in the highest 20% of schools nationally.

The percentage of students achieving a grade 4+ in humanities (84%) was significantly above national and in the highest 20% of schools nationally.

Pillar 1: English Language and English Literature

(compulsory for all students)

Director of English: Ms M. Liddane

Course Overview:

English Language

English Language develops articulate, knowledgeable young people who can express viewpoints confidently and concisely. Indeed, students develop a profound appreciation of the written and spoken word and become equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to express themselves with confidence, both in and outside of the classroom. This specification develops students' abilities to read a wide range of texts fluently and with critical understanding that in turn will improve their own writing.

Students will follow AQA English Language and will sit two exam papers:

Paper 1- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

English Literature:

English Literature develops students who can confidently engage with, and independently interpret, a range of literature texts. English Literature aims to nurture and develop a love of literature, language and words, taking into account the needs and styles of all students so that everyone experiences success. Students gain an understanding of a range of different social and historical contexts and make links between literature texts and topical modern issues. This specification develops students' ability to read a wide range of classic literature fluently to develop critical understanding and make connections across their reading.

Students will follow AQA English Literature and they will sit two exam papers:

Paper 1- Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and the 19th-century novel *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Paper 2- Modern texts *An Inspector Calls* and the Poetry Anthology: *Power & Conflict*

What students say:

English has allowed me to grasp the idea that when writers write, they write with intention and as readers, we must not overlook this even in casual circumstances!

If you are someone who enjoys looking for deeper meanings, whether that is through creating theories on your favourite characters or watching social commentary video - essay type videos on YouTube, this subject is for you. Having a genuine interest in exploring texts and wanting to know a writer's purpose behind their stories is what will lead you to success in this field, and what led me to achieve an A at the end of the year in year 12. If I haven't already put this across, I wholeheartedly recommend this subject to anyone who resonates with the aforementioned things above, and wish you the best in your studies! (Y. Fatoye, Y13)

2022 GCSE Results

Subject	9-7	9-5	9-4
English Language	41%	70%	87%
English Literature	33%	71%	88%

Pillar 2: Mathematics

(compulsory for all students)

Director of Mathematics: Mr N.Barnes

Course Overview

At Key Stage 4, students will study for the Edexcel GCSE Mathematics qualification; high-attaining students will also take Edexcel GCSE Statistics.

The fundamental aims of the mathematics programme at Key Stage 4 are for students to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Students will be entered for either the higher or foundation tier for GCSE Mathematics. The higher tier is focussed more on algebra and problem solving than the foundation tier.
At the end of the course students take three 90-minute exam papers (two calculator papers, one non-calculator paper) each worth one third of the final assessment. The final assessment for GCSE Statistics consists of two 90-minute exam papers worth 50% each.

What students say:

Maths was always a subject that interested me throughout school. With support from the school, in the form of regular topic tests and exam focused homework, I was able to achieve a grade 9 in maths and statistics due to the in-depth preparation from maths department. Constantly practising questions each week allowed the development of critical thinking and problem solving, which are vital skills needed to excel, and skills useful for other numerical subjects. (J. Boakye-Danquah, Y12)

I had always wanted to do maths beyond GCSEs and onto A-levels, and this was encouraged by the school. The course itself gives you an understanding of a variety of topics and a benefit to engaging with it is that the skills you pick up are applicable to most subjects, especially science. The lessons were always challenging but enjoyable and this enabled me to achieve a grade 9 in my GCSE. The careers that stem from maths are endless, because the skills you learn are wanted by most employers. I would recommend this subject to anyone who enjoys problem solving. (E. O'Regan, Y12)

2022 GCSE Results

Subject	9-7	9-5	9-4
Maths	39%	73%	89%
Statistics	72%	98%	100%

Pillar 3: Combined Science *(compulsory for all students)* **or Triple (separate) Science – Biology, Chemisty and Physics**

Director of Science: Mr J.Dowling

Course Overview

At KS4, students study AQA Combined Science or AQA Separate Sciences. Students explore nature and the universe through research and experimental means which develops their understanding of the role that science plays in their lives. Science is the discovery of new knowledge that explains how our world was formed, how it developed, and how it works. The subject sheds light on our natural curiosities and develops robust analytical and critical thinking skills, which are essential in our world today. The separate sciences form a natural foundation for continued study of the sciences at A level.

Topics studied in Biology: Cells and organisation; Disease and Bioenergetics; Biological Responses; Genetics and Reproduction; Ecology.

Topics studied in Chemistry: Atoms; Bonding and Moles; Chemical reactions and energy changes; Rates, equilibrium and organic chemistry; Analysis and the Earth's resources.

Topics studies in Physics: Energy and energy resources; Particles at work; Forces in action; Waves, electromagnetism and space.

What students say:

Triple science is a given for most with a prospective future in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). It broadens your knowledge, giving you a solid foundation while developing specific transferable skills. Physics is important for future careers in all fields of engineering, materials science and physics. Chemistry is necessary for biochemistry, biomedical sciences, chemistry, materials science and medicine and biology is useful for biochemistry, biomedical sciences, biology, medicine and veterinary science. Triple science is said to be favoured by top universities and that it puts students in a stronger position for pursuing STEM careers. It opens up a broad range of options as STEM is a wide and diverse field with many differing areas of study of which science is essential to. (A. McGiveron, Y12)

The Trinity science department goes beyond the textbook, with both collaborative practicals and exam focused homework to ensure students are ready for their exams. This allowed the lessons to be interesting and informative, building subject knowledge every lesson. Trinity also offers extracurricular science support through science societies that helps to solidify knowledge and teach students about more advanced topics. I would recommend studying triple science to anyone making choices this year as it is both engaging and builds on previous learning. (J. Boakye-Danquah, Y12)

2022 GCSE Results

Subject	9-7	9-5	9-4
Science Combined	23%	62%	80%
Biology	63%	93%	99%
Chemistry	67%	93%	99%
Physics	74%	94%	100%

Pillar 3: Computer Science
Subject Lead: Mr N. Barnes

Course Overview

At Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to study AQA GCSE Computer Science – consistently one of the most popular optional subjects at Trinity.

The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Computer science will help students to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. Students will have the opportunity to study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts.

During the two years, students will learn how to write increasingly sophisticated computer programs; they will learn how to effectively test and debug their solutions and refine them to make them more efficient. Core programming concepts are covered in Year 10; during Year 11, students use their programming skills to solve more complex problems in a range of contexts.

Year 10 students will learn how computers represent data – including how numbers, text, programs, sound and images can be represented using binary. Following this they will go on to study computer systems (including how computers work), cyber security and computer networks. Year 11 students learn about databases and well-known algorithms.

At the end of the course, students will sit two exam papers – Computational Thinking & Programming Skills; Computing Concepts – each worth 50% of the GCSE.

What students say:

By studying Computer Science I was able to explore what a future career in the subject would look like after being inspired at an early age to be a Software Engineer. In particular, I enjoyed programming as it gave me the freedom to develop my own solutions to projects. One of the many benefits of this subject is the problem solving aspect, which relates to real world issues that we face today. Another would be the close links it has with other subjects such as maths and physics which has now helped me during my A-Levels. This subject suits students who enjoy maths or who like to be challenged. I managed to achieve a Grade 9 in this subject and I am using my skills toward my A-Level and future degree in this subject. (P. Hamill-Mason, Y12)

Computer science was one of my favourite GCSE subjects due to the critical thinking progression that I developed during the course. You independently develop algorithms for unknown tasks, and the course is primarily skill based rather than content based, so it worked well with other more information-based subjects. The knowledge organiser's help to clearly articulate any content you need to revise, something that critically helped me to get a grade 9. The lessons are both interactive and programming focused, so I would advise younger students to choose computer science as the skills developed are useful in any numerical/logic-based subject you choose alongside it. (J. Ford, Y12)

2022 GCSE Results

Subject	9-7	9-5	9-4
Computer Science	39%	65%	78%

Pillar 4: Modern Foreign Languages French/Spanish
Subject Lead: Ms S. Diez

Course Overview

Students are strongly encouraged to continue with either French or Spanish to GCSE. Students follow the Viva GCSE course book in Spanish and the Studio GCSE course book in French. Students also have access to digital textbooks to extend their language learning beyond the classroom. Weekly speaking sessions are conducted with language assistants to help develop students' speaking skills.

The AQA GCSE course aims to prepare students to:

- communicate effectively in writing and in speech for a variety of purposes across a range of contexts
- make accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures to describe and narrate with reference to past, present and future events
- manipulate the language with increasing accuracy and fluency
- translate sentences and short texts to convey key messages accurately
- deduce meaning from a variety of short and longer spoken and written texts
- make creative and more complex use of the language to express and justify their own thoughts and points of view.

Students are assessed in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing – each worth 25%) at the end of the two-year course.

What students say:

Communication is the key to understanding one another. As I see it, learning languages are the means to communicate. During French or Spanish lessons, not only do I learn the syntax or grammar of these modern languages, but I am also now more aware of French-speaking and Spanish-speaking countries, cultures, and backgrounds of these people; not to forget Spanish and French cuisines. Miscommunications and misunderstandings are lessened as I appreciate the choice of words, expressions and tone used when someone speaks Spanish and French with me.
My love to acquire languages developed since year 7 when I studied French. I was not afraid to select both Spanish and French as my GCSEs options at Trinity, even though I do not come from a Spanish or French-speaking family background, because I am totally intrigued by the beauty of languages. In addition, these life skills will always stay with me. (P. Stubbings, Y11)

LANGUAGES! They are how we communicate with each other, the gateway to making relationships with people all across the world. From making new friends, to accessing different careers abroad, learning a new language really opens doors for you. Personally, I feel I have discovered a whole new world through my Spanish GCSE and my recently begun Spanish A-Level, not only through the language but through the exposure to culture in Spain and other Spanish speaking parts of the world. Overall, I highly recommend learning a language for GCSE and A-Level, you won't regret it! (J. Trimble, Y12)

2022 GCSE Results

Subject	9-7	9-5	9-4
French	63%	97%	97%
Spanish	40%	72%	87%

Pillar 5: Humanities: Geography
Subject Lead: Mrs K. Reid

Course Overview

At KS4 students will have the opportunity to develop curiosity about the world they live in, to understand the key concepts and skills of geography, the dynamic links and interrelationships that exist, addressing real world issues and to become independent thinkers, informed and engaged citizens. Students will understand the disciplinary knowledge of geography and be able to think like a geographer and to understand the world through the prism of geography.

Students will focus on key geographical concepts:

- Place, space, earth systems, environment, interconnection, time, scale.
- How do these key concepts help us to make sense of our world from a geographical perspective?
- Geographical practice - practical skills, the use of qualitative and quantitative data, fieldwork.
- Geographical application - how do we apply our knowledge of the world in understanding world challenges and issues?

Through a study of GCSE Geography students will understand the complexity of our world and the role they will play in its future.

What students say:

GCSE Geography is a great qualification to have as it links to many aspects of society and is a well-respected subject. Geography is a very interesting subject, as you can see the world through both physical and human factors. The GCSE Geography fieldtrip was fun, whilst also being informative and educative. There are skills that are taught within Geography such as interpreting quantitative data, which can be applied in Maths and other aspects of life. (F. McManus, Y13)

Having an older sister who did geography at university, I was witness to where her degree led her and was interested in following this route myself. In both GCSEs and A-Levels, Geography has been my favourite subject. From the trips to studying glaciation, it has always been interesting to study. My interest in human geography has now led me to studying International Politics. It's very important in understanding the world around me. (K. Harding, Y13)

I chose GCSE Geography not only because it counts as an EBacc subject, but it is also a subject that applies to life in the present day. The subject shed light on issues that we currently face as well. There are also fieldtrip opportunities which are very enjoyable. (A. Duodu, Y13)

I chose GCSE Geography and it was the best decision I made. We explored various topics, human and physical and related to biology and economics, which I also studied. Our teachers at Trinity have amazing expertise and teach lessons in an engaging manner that presents the world in a different light. Additionally, our geography trip was very enjoyable and brought our classes together. We learnt so much as well as giving us a great sense of gratification. (J. Kissi, Y13)

2022 GCSE Results

Subject	9-7	9-5	9-4
Geography	39%	68%	82%

Pillar 5: Humanities: History
Subject Lead: Mrs S. Cox

Course Overview

At Key Stage 4, students will develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of key events, periods and societies in British and wider world history. Students will engage in historical enquiry and develop as independent learners and critical reflective thinkers. Students will develop their ability to ask questions, investigate issues and to validate historical claims using a range of sources.

Unit 1: Period Study and Wider World Study
Part A – Germany, Democracy and Dictatorship: 1890-1945 (25% exam weighting)
Part B- Conflict and Tension between East and West, 1945-1972 (25% exam weighting)

Unit 2: Thematic Study and British Depth Study
Part A – Britain: Health and the People, c1000 to present day (25% exam weighting)
Part B – Elizabethan England, 1568-1603 (25% exam weighting)

What students say:

History GCSE really opened my eyes to the many fascinating events that have taken place in the past. I loved learning about WW2 and the conflict between the east and west during the Cold War, particularly as it shows how not that long ago, the world we are living in is a completely different place and we have made so much progression. It's a challenging subject that vastly improves your essay writing skills as well as your thinking skills as history requires you to think of the bigger picture! Our teachers provide us with many informative videos and sources from historians that we get to annotate and formulate our own ideas of why these historic events happened. Doing GCSE history also makes taking history later down the line at A-level easier as you will acquire all the skills you need to discuss high level content in the Tudor era and revolution and dictatorship in Russia from 1917-1953. (C. Scanlon, Y13)

GCSE history was both challenging and interesting for me. It helped me develop my essay writing skills and develop a wider knowledge of the world. I particularly enjoyed learning about Nazi Germany because it helped me understand past events and their relevance today. A skill that I picked up from the course was the ability to analyse sources; I no longer take things at face value and have developed a more analytical mindset which has helped me not only in my A levels but in life as a whole. As someone who enjoys English, this was the perfect choice for me and it has greatly improved my writing skills and I appreciate how applicable the subject is in my wider education. (L. Edwards, Y13)

2022 GCSE Results

Subject	9-7	9-5	9-4
History	42%	74%	86%

Thinking Ahead: Career Pathways

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc is made up of the subjects that are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with **greater opportunities in further education** and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

Career pathways that the EBacc subjects may lead to ***(but are not limited to)*** some of the following careers:

English Literature/ English Language: Journalist; Publisher; Lawyer; Education – teacher, lecturer; Marketing executive; Public Relations (PR); Media Researcher; Creative writer; Copywriter; Librarian; Politian/ civil servant.

Mathematics: Account; Tax advisor; Statistician; Data analyst; Banker, Financial trader; Underwriter; Surveyor; Education – teacher, lecturer; Computer programmer; Civil servant; Economic forecaster.

Science: Scientist; Doctor; Surgeon; Veterinary doctor; Engineer; Optometrist; Telecommunications; Biotechnologist; Pharmacologist; Biomedical scientist; Nurse; Midwife; Radiographer.

Computer Science: Web designer; Software engineer; Game designer; Cyber security analyst; Data analyst; Forensic computer analyst; Education – teacher/ lecturer; Journalist.

Modern Foreign Languages: International business manager; Translator; Interpreter; Diplomatic officer; Broadcast Journalist; International aid worker; Travel and tourism; Marketing executive; Public Relations; Social media manager.

Geography: Environmental consultant; Conservation officer; Commercial surveyor; Town planner; Cartographer; Energy consultant; Weather forecaster/producer; Landscape designer; Surveyor; Teacher/Lecturer.

History: Lawyer; Barrister, Museum/gallery curator; Archaeologist; Archivist; Business administrator; Marketing executive; Designer, Education – teacher/lecturer.

Find out more about the EBacc subjects via the links below:

Modern Foreign Languages

Why languages matter:
https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/subject-area/modern-languages/why-languages-matter.html

Where can learning a language take you?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqMvzOPSpts&feature=youtu.be

History

Why study history?
https://successatschool.org/advicedetails/210/Why-Study-History%3F

Geography

Why study geography?
https://successatschool.org/advicedetails/231/Why-Study-Geography%3F

Computer science

https://successatschool.org/advicedetails/877/what-is-computer-science-computing-jobs