



28th January 2025

Dear Year 9 Parents/ Guardians,

This year, our new GCSE Options Guide is available electronically and can be found on our school website (Curriculum -> Options Booklet). This guide contains information about the KS4 curriculum at Trinity, detailed advice on choosing options as well as information about each subject at KS4. It is important that this booklet is read carefully as part of the preparation for making important choices about study options at KS4.

### School Support for Option Choices

From 28<sup>th</sup> January, Year 9 students will be carefully guided through the options process. Students will receive presentations about how to select options; compulsory subjects; the EBacc pathway and information about new subjects on offer at KS4 which students have not studied at KS3.

### The EBaccalaureate (EBacc) Pathway

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

In addition to the whole school options guide, an EBacc guide is also available on the school's website. We will be hosting a **cheese and wine evening** for Year 9 parents on **Friday 7th February at 6pm** where further information will be shared about the importance of the EBacc subjects. Further information about this cheese and wine evening will follow in due course.

### Careers Advice

Ms Brissett-Bailey, is our careers advisor from the Prospects Student Careers Service. Both Ms Brissett-Bailey and Mrs Alexander (our in-school careers advisor) will speak to selected students about how to approach GCSE option decisions, how to use labour market information to inform themselves of growing job sectors and how jobs are likely to change in the future.

### Main School Office:

Upper Site: Mornington Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TP | Telephone: 020 8504-3419

Lower Site: Sydney Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TB | Telephone: 020 8504-8946



### Head of Year Advice

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February from 10.45am to 11.30am and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 10.45am to 11.30am, Mr Munck (Head of Year 9) is available for remote individual interviews with parents and will provide advice on KS4 option choices. Parents should contact Mrs Cohen on Lower Site, telephone number 020 8504 8946, to arrange appointments in advance. Phone appointments will be limited to 5 minutes per phone call.

### SENCo Advice

The parents of all students on the SEN register will be contacted by Mrs Lowther and student interviews arranged concerning option choices between Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### Additional Help

For additional help with regard making GCSE option decisions, we recommend the following websites:

- **BBC Bitesize:** GCSE Options: everything you need to know about choosing your GCSE subjects (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p>)
- **National Careers Service:** Information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning training and work (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>)
- **Studential:** Information and advice on all stages of education (<https://www.studential.com/GCSEs/choosing-your-GCSE-subject-options>)

### Submitting Option Forms

Please submit your child's option choices by completing an **online form** through ParentMail by **Friday 7th March 2025** at the latest. It is important that this form is completed correctly following information contained on the online option form and within the options booklet. Please email [cleung@tchs.org.uk](mailto:cleung@tchs.org.uk) if you need any help in submitting your form online. The online options form will be sent to parents via ParentMail Form on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February**. Parents can also find this online form when they log into their ParentMail account after this date.

In summary, our advice on deciding subject choices at GCSE remains as always: students should choose a broad range of subjects; subjects that will support career aspirations and, importantly, subjects that they enjoy. We hope you find this information helpful. Please encourage your son/ daughter to think carefully about option choices and to seek advice if this is needed.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr P. C. Doherty OBE**  
Headmaster



**Mrs L. McGrory**  
Deputy Headteacher

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