

Choices

The image features the word "Choices" in a playful, sans-serif font. Each letter is a different color and has a slight 3D effect. The letters are held up by seven hands of various skin tones, representing diversity. The background is plain white.

St Alban's Catholic High School



Year 8
Pathways
2020-2023



Wednesday 11 March 2020

Opening Prayer



Lord, we pray that You would give our students God's insight and wisdom in these important subject choices that they need to make. Lead them along the way that You have prepared for them, for we know that You have a path that you would wish them to follow that would lead them to success and happiness. May their lives be used for Your praise and glory and this I ask in Jesus' name.

Amen

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John



But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.

A blessing as you journey



Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth
and teaches us your ways.

Look up on these students.

Bless them as they make these important decisions and guide them to make the right choices.

Let them enjoy their learning and to take delight in new discoveries.

Help them persevere in their studies and give them the desire to learn all things well.

Look up on these teachers.

Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience,
and endeavour always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that students and teachers alike may follow Jesus Christ,
the Way, the Truth and the Life
for ever and ever,

Amen

GCSE subject Choices



- All students take four core subjects. Religious education, English, science, and mathematics
- The core subjects will lead to six or seven GCSE qualifications
- Students are now considering the right subjects for up to four remaining choices

Pathways 2020



- Students indicated last year that some found it hard to choose just three subjects at the end of Year 8
- This year they will choose four subjects in Year 8
- At the end of the Summer term of Year 9, students will make their final GCSE choices, picking the most appropriate three subjects from the four they have studied in Year 9

GCSE Courses



Core Subjects

Religious Studies

**English
Language/Literature**

Maths

**Science
(2 or 3 GCSEs)**

P.E.
(not examined)

PYF
(not examined)

Pathway 1

Pathway 2

Pathway 3

Pathway 4

Pathway Subjects

Subject Choices



Art & Design
Business
Computing
Creative iMedia
Design & Technology
Drama
Food and Nutrition

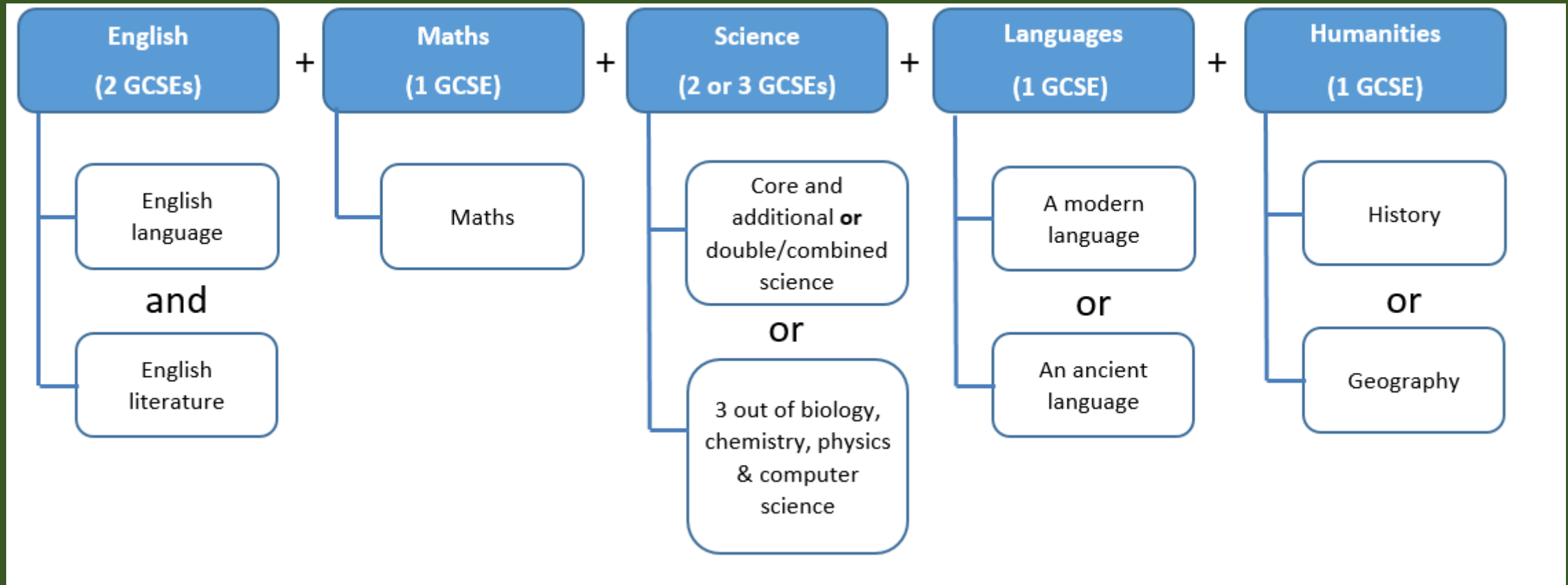
French
Geography
German
History
Music
Spanish
Sport (BTEC)
Textile Design

Subject Choices



Pathway Block A	Pathway Block B	Pathway Block C	Pathway Block D
Business	Business	Art	Art
Computing	Creative iMedia	Business	Computing
Geography	Design & Technology	Food & Nutrition	Drama
German	French	French	Food & Nutrition
History	Geography	Geography	Geography
Spanish	History	History	History
<i>Alternative Curriculum</i>		Music	Sport (BTEC)
		Textile Design	

EBacc subjects?



Why these subjects?



- These are all subjects that universities *recommend* students to have in order to be accepted on to *many* degree courses.
- A lot of science degrees require students to have two or sometimes three A-levels in **maths, physics, chemistry** or **biology**.
- Many specialist courses at A-level and beyond also take a large part of their content or structure from these subjects. For instance, **engineering** includes elements of maths and physics.
- Many universities are keen that students have taken a **foreign language** at GCSE. A language opens up extra possibilities in the breadth of study and in extended study at universities across Europe and the world.

Should I take *only* EBacc subjects?



● No!

- There are many other subjects, which are excellent at preparing you for university. The only difference is that they aren't usually required by universities to get onto a particular course.
- For example, psychology and economics are considered useful subjects for lots of courses, but you don't actually need them to get on to a psychology or an economics degree.
- If you already have an idea about what you would like to study at university or you're **passionate** about a particular subject, then you should make your choices based on this and based on what you need to get on to your chosen course.

Where to get help and advice



The screenshot shows the homepage of successatschool.org. At the top left is the logo 'success at school .org' with the tagline 'choose your next steps'. A navigation menu includes Home, Career Paths, Advice, Employers, Universities, Jobs & Courses, and Forums. Below the menu is a banner with various subject-specific guides for '5 WORK SKILLS' in English, Art & Design, Geography, and Music, along with a 'DRAMA TAKE 2017?' guide. A central article titled 'Parents: Be ready for GCSE results day' is featured. Below the banner is a 'Welcome to Success at School!' message with a 'Register' button. The main content area has four cards: 'Career Zones' (with a compass icon), 'Employers' (with a speech bubble icon), 'Universities' (with a graduation cap icon), and 'News' (with a 'Go >' link). The 'News' card highlights 'It's National Career Week - resources for careers...' and 'It's National Apprenticeship Week 2020'.

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player with a red background. The video title is 'What GCSE subjects should I choose?'. The video content features the text 'What GCSE subjects should I choose?' in large white font. The video player interface includes a progress bar at the bottom showing 0:03 / 1:56, and icons for 'Watch later' and 'Share' in the top right corner.



Work Wednesdays

icanbea...
Find a job or career in Norfolk or Suffolk based on your specific interests!

Find Your Career Latest Jobs

How it works...

www.icanbea.org.uk



GCSE Choices

- **Quality not quantity**
- **Commitment – this is a two year course**
- **Keeping options open – broad range of subjects**
- **New opportunities / familiar ways of working**
- **Staff support and commitment**
- **Parental involvement**



You should consider subjects

- that you may need in the future
- that you enjoy and want to study
- that you believe you can manage



Do NOT consider subjects

- because your friends are doing them
- because you think they are an “easy option”
- because you like the teacher

Options Online www.sims-options.co.uk



SIMS

Sign in to SIMS Options

Sign in with SIMS ID

Sign in with Facebook

Sign in with Twitter

Sign in with Google

Sign in with Microsoft

Sign in with Office 365

Click here

Your login details are your school email address and your normal school password

Choose one **main** and one **reserve** from each of the four blocks



Year 9 Option Choices 2019

You have chosen 0 of 3 courses and 0 of 2 reserves from this list

Art & Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	German GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Creative iMedia Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2	Reserve
Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Sport BTEC Award Level 1 & 2	Reserve	Design & Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Food & Nutrition GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve				

Click here for main choice

Click here for reserve choice



My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Art**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block C
- 2 Computing**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block D
- 3 Geography**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block B
- 4 Spanish**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block A: Separate Sciences

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 4)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 History**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block B
- 2 Music**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block C
- 3 Food & Nutrition**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block D
- 4 German**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block A: Separate Sciences

You can put your choices in order of preference if you wish

Alternative Course – Block A



- We recognise that, for some students, four choices is not appropriate. For this reason, there will also be an **alternative course** available in *Pathway Block A*. This course will start in Year 9 and be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the group. There may be elements of the course that will be externally accredited although that is not the overall reason for its existence.
- If you believe that this alternative course may be an appropriate part of your child's *Pathway* at the school, please speak to Mrs Boosey or Mrs Pickard.

Deadline



- Please complete the online form by **Wednesday 25th March 2020**
- If students are having any difficulty with their choices or with accessing the website, they will be able to complete the choices with their form tutor in school.
- Parents/carers will be asked to approved the choices their child has made before they are finalised.



St Alban's Catholic High School
"Learning, Respecting, Caring"