

# PATHWAYS EVENING

2024



**St Alban's Catholic High School**



**Year 9**  
***Pathways***  
**2024-2026**



**Wednesday 28 February 2024**

# Opening Prayer



**Lord, we pray that You would give our students your 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**

# 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 three remaining choices



# A reminder

## Why change Pathways?

- Disruption in education due to COVID means students have not had the chance to gain a depth of knowledge in each subject.
- Current Year 10 students found it much harder to make choices than in previous years.

## Why keep key elements of Pathways?

- Informed choices
- Flexibility for students
- Introduction to new subjects

# Timings for Year 9

## 2023 - 2024

### Academic calendar 2023/24 UK

2023				2024							
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
1 Fr	1 Su	1 We	1 Fr	1 Mo <small>New Year's Day</small>	1 Th	1 Fr	1 Mo <small>Easter Monday</small>	1 We	1 Sa	1 Mo	1 Th
2 Sa	2 Mo	2 Th	2 Sa	2 Tu	2 Fr	2 Sa	2 Tu	2 Th	2 Su	2 Tu	2 Fr
3 Su	3 Tu	3 Fr	3 Su	3 We	3 Sa	3 Su	3 We	3 Fr	3 Mo	3 We	3 Sa
4 Mo	4 We	4 Sa	4 Mo	4 Th	4 Su	4 Mo	4 Th	4 Sa	4 Tu	4 Th	4 Su
5 Tu	5 Th	5 Su	5 Tu	5 Fr	5 Mo	5 Tu	5 Fr	5 Su	5 We	5 Fr	5 Mo
6 We	6 Fr	6 Mo	6 We	6 Sa	6 Tu	6 We	6 Sa	6 Mo <small>Early May Bank Hol.</small>	6 Th	6 Sa	6 Tu
7 Th	7 Sa	7 Tu	7 Th	7 Su	7 We	7 Th	7 Su	7 Tu	7 Fr	7 Su	7 We
8 Fr	8 Su	8 We	8 Fr	8 Mo	8 Th	8 Fr	8 Mo	8 We	8 Sa	8 Mo	8 Th
9 Sa	9 Mo	9 Th	9 Sa	9 Tu	9 Fr	9 Sa	9 Tu	9 Th	9 Su	9 Tu	9 Fr
10 Su	10 Tu	10 Fr	10 Su	10 We	10 Th	10 Su	10 We	10 Fr	10 Mo	10 We	10 Sa
11 Mo	11 We	11 Sa	11 Mo	11 Th	11 Su	11 Mo	11 Th	11 Sa	11 Tu	11 Th	11 Su
12 Tu	12 Th	12 Su	12 Tu	12 Fr	12 Mo	12 Tu	12 Fr	12 Su	12 We	12 Fr	12 Mo
13 We	13 Fr	13 Tu	13 We	13 Sa	13 Tu	13 We	13 Sa	13 Mo	13 Th	13 Sa	13 Tu
14 Th	14 Sa	14 Tu	14 Th	14 Su	14 We	14 Th	14 Su	14 Tu	14 Fr	14 Su	14 We
15 Fr	15 Su	15 We	15 Fr	15 Mo	15 Th	15 Fr	15 Mo	15 We	15 Sa	15 Mo	15 Th
16 Sa	16 Mo	16 Th	16 Sa	16 Tu	16 Fr	16 Sa	16 Tu	16 Th	16 Su	16 Tu	16 Fr
17 Su	17 Tu	17 Fr	17 Su	17 We	17 Sa	17 Su	17 We	17 Fr	17 Mo	17 We	17 Sa
18 Mo	18 We	18 Sa	18 Mo	18 Th	18 Su	18 Mo	18 Th	18 Sa	18 Tu	18 Th	18 Su
19 Tu	19 Th	19 Su	19 Tu	19 Fr	19 Mo	19 Tu	19 Fr	19 Su	19 We	19 Fr	19 Mo
20 We	20 Fr	20 Mo	20 We	20 Sa	20 Tu	20 We	20 Sa	20 Mo	20 Th	20 Sa	20 Tu
21 Th	21 Sa	21 Tu	21 Th	21 Su	21 We	21 Th	21 Su	21 Tu	21 Fr	21 Su	21 We
22 Fr	22 Su	22 We	22 Fr	22 Mo	22 Th	22 Fr	22 Mo	22 We	22 Sa	22 Mo	22 Th
23 Sa	23 Mo	23 Th	23 Sa	23 Tu	23 Fr	23 Sa	23 Tu	23 Th	23 Su	23 Tu	23 Fr
24 Su	24 Tu	24 Fr	24 Su	24 We	24 Sa	24 Su	24 We	24 Fr	24 Mo	24 We	24 Sa
25 Mo	25 We	25 Sa	25 Mo <small>Christmas Day</small>	25 Th	25 Su	25 Mo	25 Th	25 Sa	25 Tu	25 Th	25 Su
26 Tu	26 Th	26 Su	26 Tu <small>Boxing Day</small>	26 Fr	26 Mo	26 Tu	26 Fr	26 Su	26 We	26 Fr	26 Mo <small>August Bank Holiday</small>
27 We	27 Fr	27 Mo	27 We	27 Sa	27 Tu	27 We	27 Sa	27 Mo <small>Spring Bank Holiday</small>	27 Th	27 Sa	27 Tu
28 Th	28 Sa	28 Tu	28 Th	28 Su	28 We	28 Th	28 Su	28 Tu	28 Fr	28 Su	28 We
29 Fr	29 Su	29 We	29 Fr	29 Mo	29 Th	29 Fr <small>Good Friday</small>	29 Mo	29 We	29 Sa	29 Mo	29 Th
30 Sa	30 Mo	30 Th	30 Sa	30 Tu		30 Sa	30 Tu	30 Th	30 Su	30 Tu	30 Fr
	31 Tu		31 Su	31 We		31 Su		31 Fr		31 We	31 Sa

KS3

Rotation A  
7 weeks

KS3

Rotation B  
7 weeks

KS3  
Rotation A  
7 weeks

KS3  
Rotation B  
7 weeks

Pathways  
10 weeks



# Curriculum Year 9

## 2023 - 2024

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40								
																										Block A				Block B				Block C				Block D											
Year 9	S	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Fr	Fr	Sh	Sh	Mu	Mu	Dr	Dr	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	Te	Te	Te	Bs								
	T	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Sh	Sh	Fr	Fr	Gg	Gg	Mu	Mu	Hi	Hi	Dr	Dr	Te	Te	Bs	Te								
	A	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Fr	Fr	Sh	Sh	Hi	Hi	Gg	Gg	Cp	Cp	Ar	Ar	Te	Bs	Te	Te								
	L	For the first 28 weeks there are												En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	As	As	As	As									Bs	Te	Te	Te								
	B	two lots of Rotation A and two of												En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Te	Te	Bs	Te	Dr	Dr	Hi	Hi	Mu	Mu	Gg	Gg	Sh	Sh	Fr	Fr								
	N	Rotation B. This means that all												En	En	En	En	En	En	Pe	Pe	Re	Re	Re	Re	Te	Bs	Te	Te	Gg	Gg	Ar	Ar	Hi	Hi	Cp	Cp	Sh	Sh	Sh	Sh								
		students will study all subjects.																								Bs	Te	Te	Te									As	As	As	As								
		The rotation is between Art,																																															
		Music , Drama and Computing																																															
		who will alternate as shown in																																															
		the group highlighted in Red on																																															
		the right.																																															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40								
																										Block A				Block B				Block C				Block D											
Year 9	S	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Fr	Fr	Sh	Sh	Ar	Ar	Cp	Cp	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	Te	Te	Te	Bs								
	T	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Sh	Sh	Fr	Fr	Gg	Gg	Ar	Ar	Hi	Hi	Cp	Cp	Te	Te	Bs	Te								
	A	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Fr	Fr	Sh	Sh	Hi	Hi	Gg	Gg	Mu	Mu	Dr	Dr	Te	Bs	Te	Te								
	L	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	As	As	As	As									Bs	Te	Te	Te								
	B	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Te	Te	Bs	Te	Cp	Cp	Hi	Hi	Ar	Ar	Gg	Gg	Sh	Sh	Fr	Fr								
	N	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	En	En	En	En	En	En	Pe	Pe	Re	Re	Re	Re	Te	Bs	Te	Te	Gg	Gg	Dr	Dr	Hi	Hi	Mu	Mu	Sh	Sh	Sh	Sh								
																										Bs	Te	Te	Te									As	As	As	As								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40								
																										Block A				Block B				Block C				Block D											
Year 9	S	For the last 10 weeks students												En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Fr					Gg				Gg				Fr										
	T	will have a choice of one subject												En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Sh					Gg				Hi				Sh										
	A	from each block. There will be												En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Fr/Sh					Hi				Hi				Fr/Sh										
	L	opportunities to change part way																								Te				Mu				Mu				Te											
	B	through if necessary. Those												En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Tf					Ar				Ar				Tf										
	N	interested in Sport & Coaching												En	En	En	En	En	En	Pe	Pe	Re	Re	Re	Re	Tt					Dr				Dr				Tt										
		will have a chance to try that out												En	En	En	En	En	En	Pe	Pe	Re	Re	Re	Re	Bs					Cp				Cp				Bs										
		in normal PE lessons																								Im												Im											
																										As												As											

**Rotation A**  
**2 x 7 weeks**

**Rotation B**  
**2 x 7 weeks**

**Pathways**  
**10 weeks**

# Pathways 2024 - 2026



- Students have had the opportunity to gain more depth in all Key Stage 3 subjects in the first 28 weeks of Year 9
- In the last 10 weeks of Year 9, students will choose four subjects, one from each block.
- 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
- If there are blocks in which they would like to try more than one subject, there will be an opportunity to change part way through. As each subject is available in more than one block so this will rarely happen.



# GCSE Courses



Core Subjects

**Religious Studies**

**English  
Language/Literature**

**Maths**

**Science  
(2 or 3 GCSEs)**

**P.E.**  
(not examined)

**PSHE**  
(not examined)

**Pathway 1**

**Pathway 2**

**Pathway 3**

Pathway Subjects

# Subject Choices



**Alternative Curriculum**

**Art & Design**

**Business**

**Computing**

**Design & Technology**

**Drama**

**Food and Nutrition**

**French**

**Geography**

**Graphical Communication**

**History**

**Music**

**Spanish**

**Sport & Coaching Principles**

**Textile Design**

# Subject Choices in Year 9 Blocks



Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
French Spanish Design & Technology Food & Nutrition Textiles Design Business Studies ASDAN	Geography x 2 History x 2 Art Music Drama Computing	Geography x 2 History x 2 Art Music Drama Computing	French Spanish Design & Technology Food & Nutrition Textiles Design Business Studies ASDAN

# Subject Choices in Year 10 Blocks

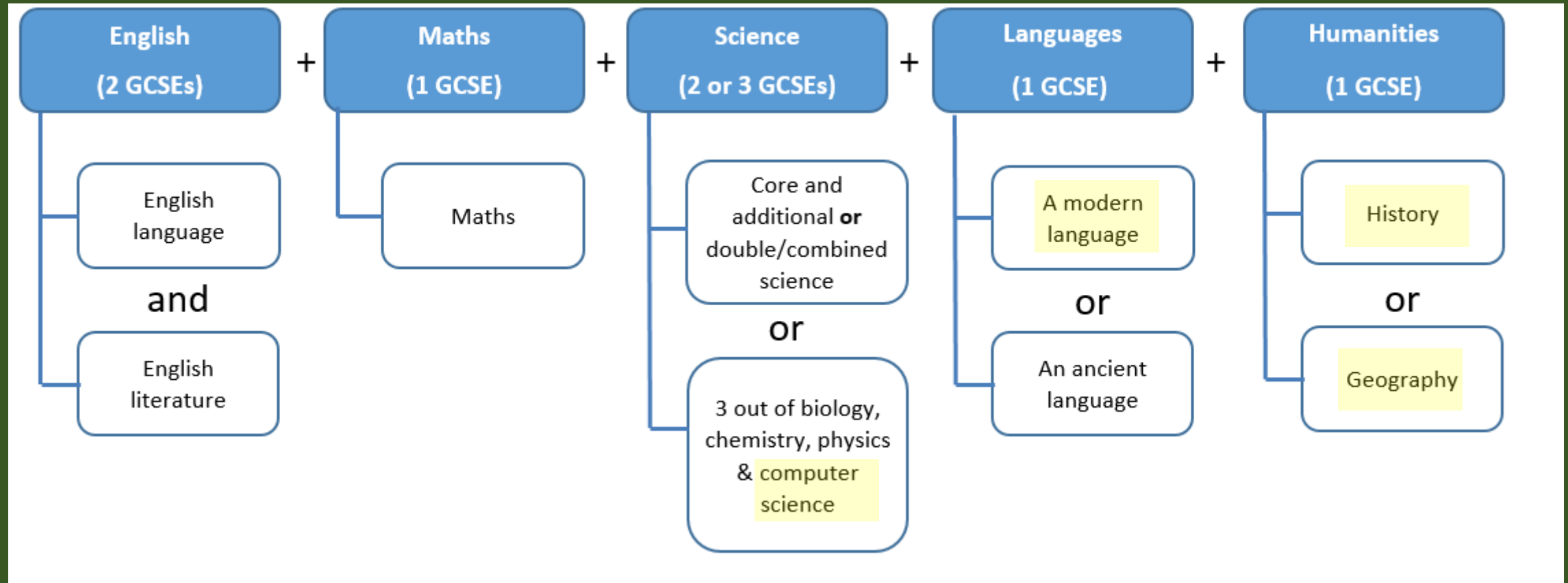


Block A	Block B	Block C
Art	Art	Art
Business Studies	Business Studies	Computing
Design & Technology	French	Drama
French	Food & Nutrition	Food & Nutrition
Geography	Geography	Geography
Graphic Communication	History	History
History	Music	Sport & Coaching x2
Music	Spanish	Spanish
Textile Design	ASDAN	

**Please Note:** We are no longer able to offer Creative iMedia next year

This design is based on previous years, but may change depending on number of groups required in each subject area

# 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.

# Do I have to take an EBacc subject?



- All Year 10 students will be asked to take **at least one** EBacc subject as part of their three choices.
- This will ensure that they are thinking forward to further education and future possibilities.
- This will also ensure that not all of their subjects have a significant practical element to the GCSE course as this can be overwhelming at times during Year 11.
- Please talk to a member of the senior leadership team if you have any questions about this matter.

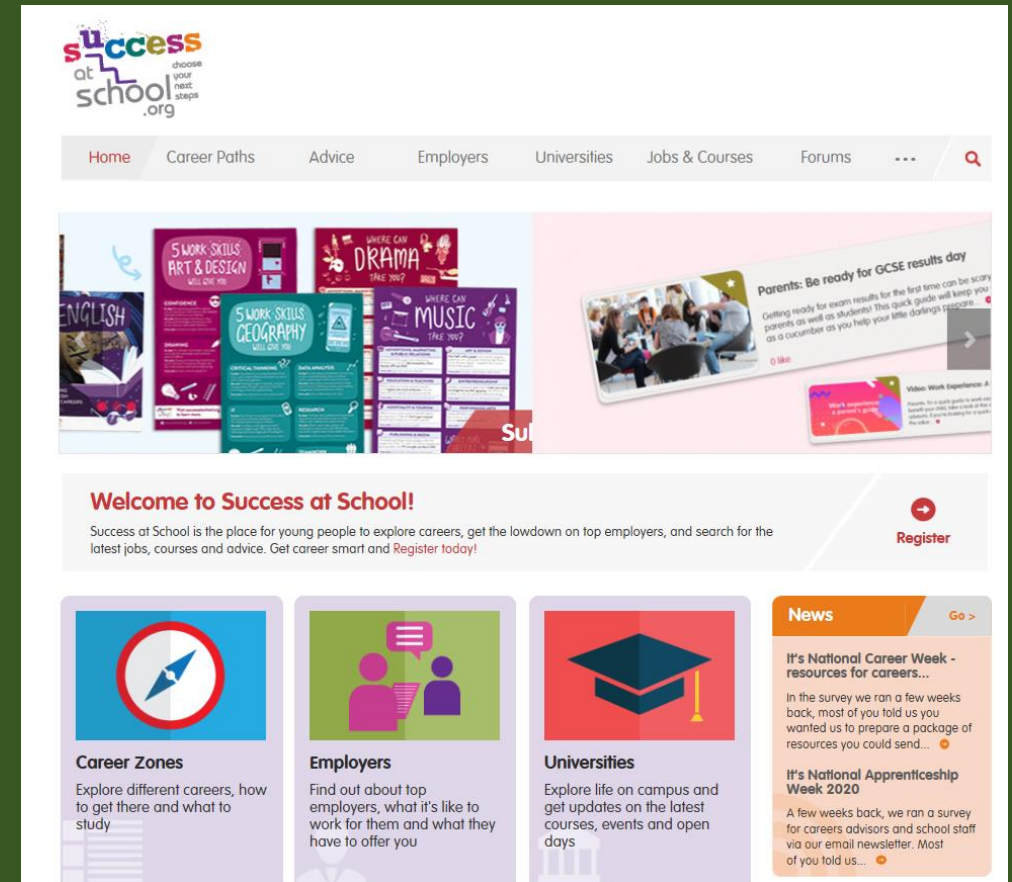
# Where to get help and advice



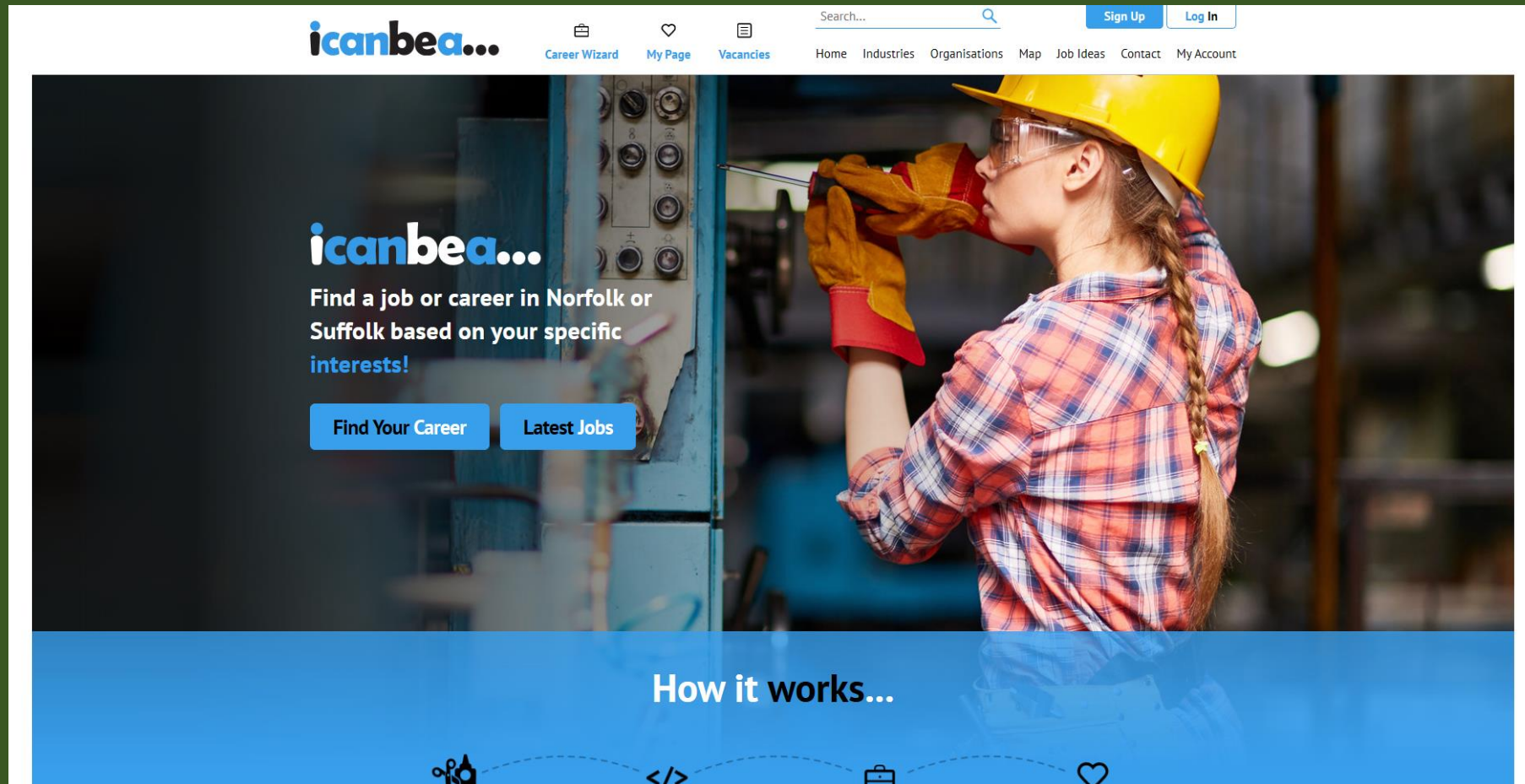
Careers Lead  
Mrs Michelle Shemming



Please email:  
[mshemming@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:mshemming@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk)



[successatschool.org](http://successatschool.org)



www.icanbea.org.uk



# Careers Fair – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024





# GCSE Choices

- Commitment – this is a two year course
- Keeping options open – a 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 your current teacher

# The Sixth Form at St Alban's



# What are your current ideas?

This information is for planning purposes only, you are NOT choosing your final subjects

**Remember:** You must choose at least one subject from **Computing, French, Geography, History or Spanish**

Please return to your form tutor  
by **Wednesday**  
**6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



## Year 10 Pathways Initial Thoughts 2024-2026

Name:	Form:
Parent/carer signature:	
Subject	Please tick three subjects
Art	
ASDAN	
Business Studies	
Computing	
Design & Technology	
Drama	
Food & Nutrition	
French	
Geography	
Graphical Communication	
History	
Music	
Spanish	
Sport & Coaching	
Textile Design	

**Remember:** You must choose at least one subject from **Computing, French, Geography, History or Spanish**

Please return to your form tutor by **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**




Miss Tooke

Mr Kelman

# Choosing your Summer Term subjects



		<b>Year 9 Pathways Choices Summer Term 2024</b>						Name of Student:			Form:	
								Parent/Carer signature:				
Block A Subject	Main	Reserve	Block B Subject	Main	Reserve	Block C Subject	Main	Reserve	Block D Subject	Main	Reserve	
French			Geography			Geography			French			
Spanish			History			History			Spanish			
Design & Technology			Art			Art			Design & Technology			
Food & Nutrition			Music			Music			Food & Nutrition			
Graphical Com.			Drama			Drama			Graphical Com.			
Textiles Design			Computing			Computing			Textiles Design			
Business Studies									Business Studies			
ASDAN									ASDAN			

Please pick **ONE** subject from each Block as your **MAIN** choice and **ONE** subject from each block as your **RESERVE** choice.


All Year 9 students will receive one of these forms to complete at the end of this term.

This form must be returned by **Monday 25 March 2023**.

**This is for the final 10 weeks of the academic year.**

# Choosing your Year 10 & 11 Pathway subjects



	<b>Year 10 Pathways Choices 2024-2026</b>					Name of Student:		Form:	
						Parent/Carer signature:			
<b>Block A Subject</b>	<b>Main</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Block B Subject</b>	<b>Main</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Block C Subject</b>	<b>Main</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	
Art			Art			Art			
Business Studies			Business Studies			Computing			
Creative iMedia			French			Drama			
Design & Technology			Food & Nutrition			Food & Nutrition			
French			Geography			Geography			
Geography			History			History			
Graphical Communication			Music			Sport & Coaching			
History			Spanish			Spanish			
Music			ASDAN			Textile Design			
Sport & Coaching									

Please pick **ONE** subject from each Block as your **MAIN** choice and **ONE** subject from each block as your **RESERVE** choice.

They will receive a similar form later in the summer term *based on your initial thoughts.*  
**This is for final student choices for Years 10 & 11**

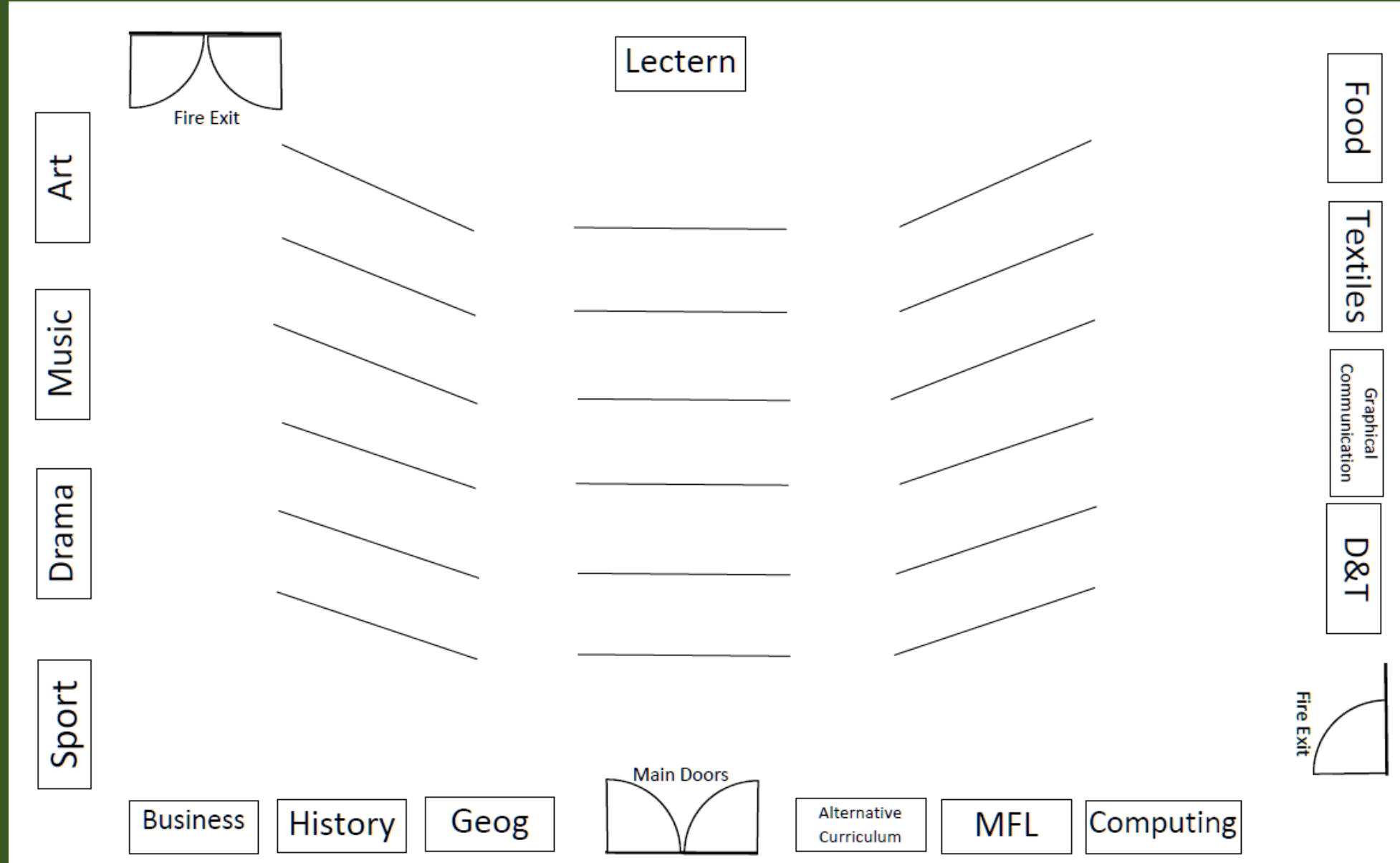


# Alternative Course



- We recognise that, for some students, three or four choices is not appropriate. For this reason, there will also be an **alternative course** available. This courses will start in the last 10 weeks of Year 9 and be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the group. There may be elements of the courses 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 Pickard.

# Layout for Year 9 Pathways Evening Departments



# Deadline



- Please complete the **Initial Thoughts** form by **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023**
- Please complete the **Summer Term Pathways Choice** form by **Monday 25 March 2023**
- Parents/carers are asked to **sign to approve** the choices their child has made on the form.
- If students are having any difficulty with their choices they may speak to their form tutor, subject leaders or come and see Mr Berry.

# Layout for Year 9 Pathways Evening Departments

