

# PATHWAYS EVENING

2025



**St Alban's Catholic High School**



**Year 9  
Pathways  
2025-2027**



**Wednesday 26 February 2025**

# 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 our Pathways process?

- 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 2024 - 2025

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 Sa	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	25 Th	25 Su	25 Mo	25 Th	25 Sa	25 Tu	25 Th	25 Su
26 Tu	26 Th	26 Su	26 Tu	26 Fr	26 Mo	26 Tu	26 Fr	26 Su	26 We	26 Fr	26 Mo
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	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  
7 weeks  
A  
7 weeks  
B  
7 weeks  
C  
7 weeks  
D  
7 weeks  
Pathways  
10 weeks

# Curriculum Year 9

## 2024 - 2025

Rotation 3

		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	Hi	Hi	ML	ML	Cp	Cp	Mu	Mu	Gg	Gg	Dr	Dr	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	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	ML	ML	Dr	Dr	Ar	Ar	Mu	Mu	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	ML	ML	Gg	Gg	Ar	Ar	Hi	Hi	Cp	Cp	Mu	Mu	Te	Bs	Te	Te
	L	For the first 28 weeks there are four rotations to ensure that all students will study all subjects. The rotation is between Art, Music, Drama and Computing who will alternate as shown in the group highlighted in Red on the right.												En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Te	Te	Te	Bs	Hi	Hi	Cp	Cp	Dr	Dr	Ar	Ar	ML	ML	Gg	Gg
	B													En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Te	Te	Bs	Te	Mu	Mu	ML	ML	Cp	Cp	Dr	Dr	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi
	N													En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Te	Bs	Te	Te	Dr	Dr	Ar	Ar	Mu	Mu	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	ML	ML

**Rotation C**  
**7 weeks**

Rotation 4

		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	Hi	Hi	ML	ML	Dr	Dr	Mu	Mu	Gg	Gg	Ar	Ar	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	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	ML	ML	Cp	Cp	Ar	Ar	Mu	Mu	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	ML	ML	Gg	Gg	Ar	Ar	Hi	Hi	Dr	Dr	Cp	Cp	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	Te	Te	Te	Bs	Hi	Hi	Dr	Dr	Cp	Cp	Mu	Mu	ML	ML	Gg	Gg
	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	Mu	Mu	ML	ML	Dr	Dr	Ar	Ar	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi
	N	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	Bs	Te	Te	Cp	Cp	Ar	Ar	Mu	Mu	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	ML	ML

**Rotation D**  
**7 weeks**

		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 will have a choice of one subject from each block. There will be opportunities to change part way through if necessary. Those interested in Sport & Coaching will have a chance to try that out in normal PE lessons												En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Bs	Ar	Ar x2	Bs												
	T													En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Gg	Cp	Cp x2	Gg												
	A													En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Hi	Dr	Dr	Hi												
	L													En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	ML	Hi	Gg	ML												
	B													En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Te	ML	Mu	Te												
	N													En	En	En	En	En	En	Re	Re	Re	Re	Pe	Pe	Tf	As		Tf												

**Pathways**  
**10 weeks**

# Pathways 2025 - 2027



- **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.**

# Last 10 weeks



Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Business Studies	Art	Art x2	Business Studies
Geography	Computing	ASDAN*	Geography
History	Drama	Computing	History
French	French	Drama	Spanish
Design & Technology	History	Essential Digital Skills *	Design & Technology
Food & Nutrition	Music	Geography	Food & Nutrition
Graphical Communication	Spanish	Music	Graphical Communication
Textile Design			Textile Design

\* - Alternative Curriculum

# 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



**Art & Design**

**ASDAN\***

**Business**

**Computing**

**Design & Technology**

**Drama**

**Essential Digital Skills\***

**Food and Nutrition**

**French**

**Geography**

**Graphical Communication**

**History**

**Music**

**Spanish**

**Sport & Coaching Principles**

**Textile Design**

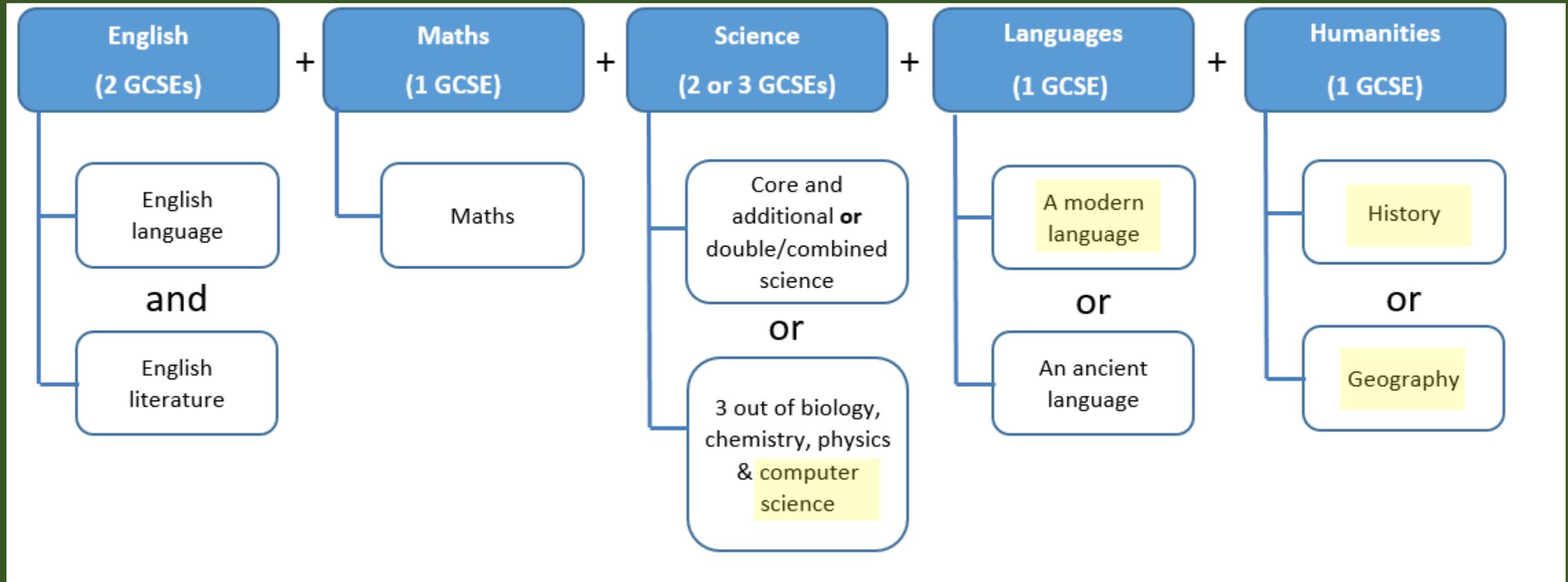
# Subject Choices in Year 10 Blocks



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

The above blocks are the current Year 10 blocks. The subjects in each block will change based on the initial choices of Year 9 students.

# 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)





# 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**  
**5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**



## Year 10 Pathways Initial Thoughts 2025-2027

Name:		Form:
Parent/carer signature:		
Subject	Please tick three subjects	
Art		
ASDAN (Alt. Curriculum)		
Business Studies		
Computing		
Design & Technology		
Drama		
Essential Digital Skills (Alt. Curriculum)		
Food & Nutrition		
French		
Geography		
Graphic 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 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**



# Choosing your Summer Term subjects



	Year 9 Pathways Choices Summer Term 2025						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
Business Studies			Art			Art (2 groups)			Business Studies		
Geography			Computing			ASDAN*			Geography		
History			Drama			Computing			History		
French			French			Drama			French		
Design & Technology			History			Essential Digital Skills*			Design & Technology		
Food & Nutrition			Music			Geography			Food & Nutrition		
Graphic Com.			Spanish			Music			Graphic Com.		
Textile Design									Textile Design		

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

Please return this slip, signed by parent/carers, to your form tutor by **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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 24 March 2025**.

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

# Choosing your Year 10 & 11 Pathway subjects



	<h2>Year 10 Pathways Choices 2024-2026</h2>					Name of Student:		Form:	
						Parent/Carer signature:			
Your initial Pathway choices made back in February were:									
Block A Subject	Main	Reserve	Block B Subject	Main	Reserve	Block C Subject	Main	Reserve	
Art			Art			Art			
Business Studies			Business Studies			ASDAN			
Drama			Computing			Business Studies			
Geography			French			Computing			
History			Geography			Geography			
Spanish			History			History			
Graphical Communication			Design & Technology			Music			
Food & Nutrition			Food & Nutrition			Spanish			
			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. Please return by Friday 7th June 2024.

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 Courses

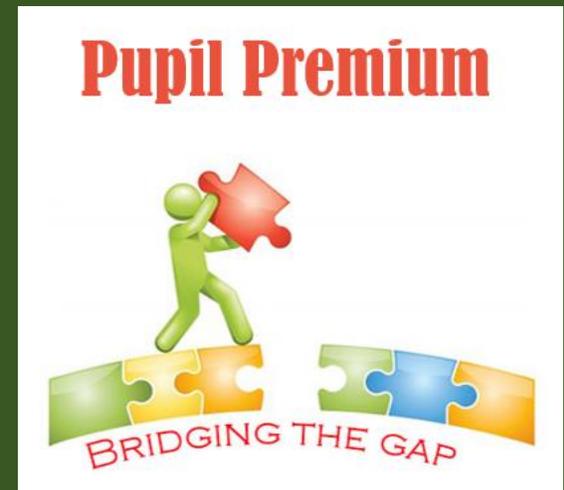


- We recognise that, for some students, three or four choices is not appropriate. For this reason, there will also be **two alternative courses** available in Year 10. These courses will start in the last 10 weeks of Year 9 and be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the group. There may be elements of the courses that will be externally accredited although that is not the overall reason for their existence.
- If you believe that an alternative course may be an appropriate part of your child's ***Pathway*** at the school, please speak to Mrs Pickard.

# Pupil Premium Students



- If your child receives Pupil Premium funding they will have a meeting with our Pupil Premium Support Lead, Mrs Iachetta, to help support them when they are making their final choices.
- This support will continue through GCSE to ensure that they have the best possible chance to reach their potential.

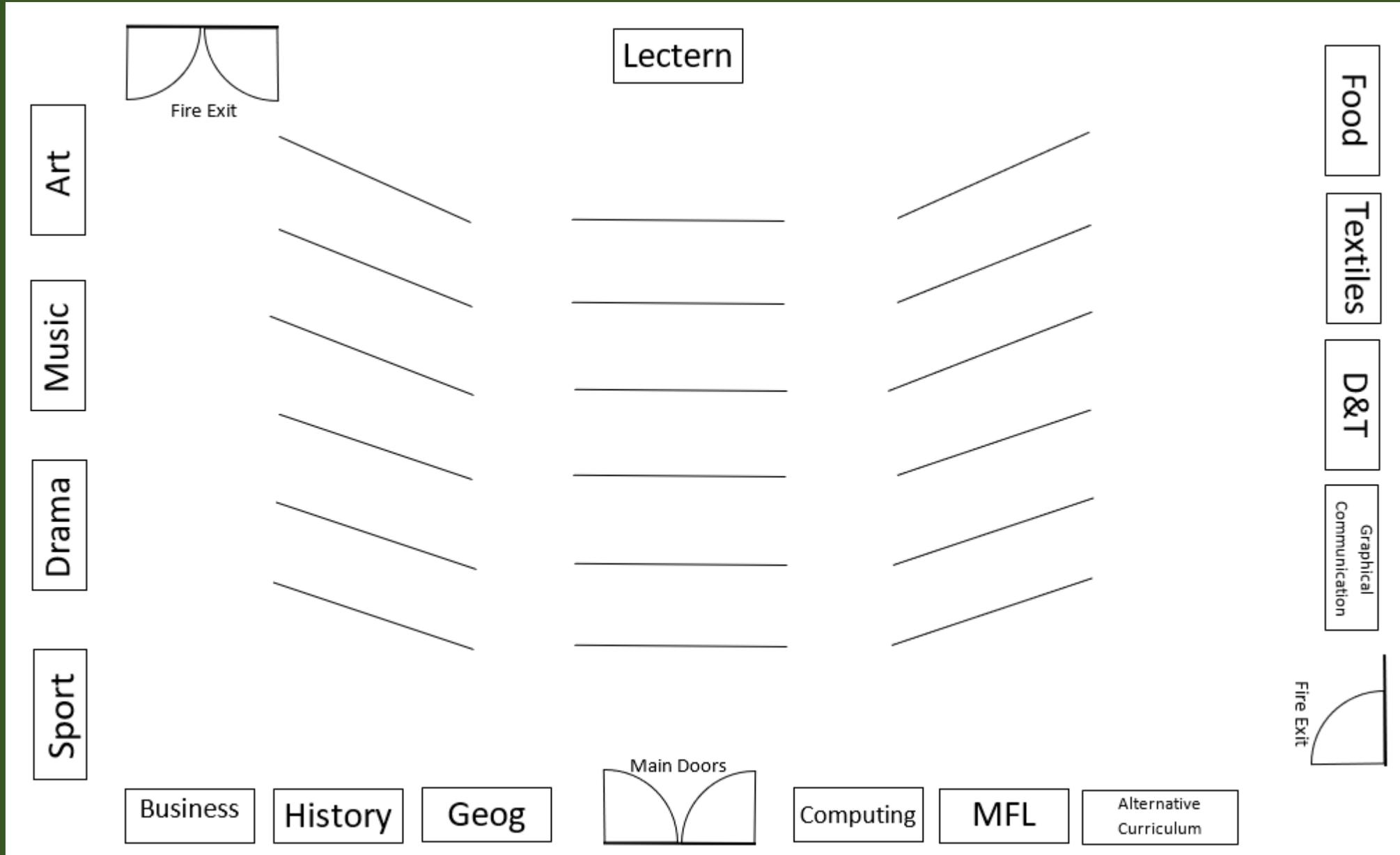


# What if I do not settle into a subject?



- We hope that with the greater depth of knowledge that you have gained in each subject during year 9 you will have a clear idea of what subjects you want to study at GCSE.
- We do, however, recognise that it is possible for some students to find that the subject they have chosen is not suitable for them. Students will, therefore, have the opportunity to change a subject up to **October half term**. The changes will have to be agreed by parents/carers and heads of subject.

# Layout for Year 9 Pathways Evening Departments





# Deadline

- Please complete the **Initial Thoughts** form by **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**
- Please complete the **Summer Term Pathways Choice** form by **Monday 24 March 2025**
- 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 McLellan, Mrs Goddard or Mr Berry.

# Layout for Year 9 Pathways Evening Departments

