

Selecting your GCSE subjects

Deciding which subjects to study at GCSE marks an important stage in your educational journey.

You will find that responsibilities go alongside this choice:

- a responsibility to choose subjects which allow you to develop interests beyond GCSE, to A-Level, university and a future career;
- a responsibility to maintain a balanced curriculum;
- a responsibility to keep future options open and to discuss with parents and teachers what is best for you.

Choosing your GCSEs can be difficult. Some students are sure about exactly what they want to study, many are undecided on future career or study choices. Very often students are sure about some subjects, but still have to make difficult decisions between one or two others: Should I take separate Sciences? Do I choose Geography or History or both? Though certain careers and further study require you to study specific subjects for a large number of careers and work places it is not necessarily which GCSEs you take, but the grades you achieved in your subjects. Taking subjects you **enjoy** will make sure you get the best grades, as you will be enthusiastic about them.

Many students will choose subjects in what is called the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). The English Baccalaureate encourages the study of academic subjects highly valued by top universities, though it should be stressed that achievement in the EBacc is not a specific entry requirement for these top universities. Students

wishing to study the required subject combination for the EBacc need to choose a humanities subject (History or Geography or both) and a modern foreign language alongside their studies in English, Maths and Science.

If you are unsure what subjects to choose, remember that balance and breadth are important. It is wise to speak to your subject teachers; they will be able to provide you with an insight into the course and help you decide whether that subject is right for you. Further advice and guidance on making your GCSE subject choices is available from the Head of Careers, your Head of Year and your Form Tutor.

Students and parents are advised to read this information carefully and think seriously about the option choices available. Your aim in making your option choices should be to put together a well-balanced combination of subjects which you will enjoy, achieve success in and find useful for a future career. It is important to choose carefully, because it is difficult to change a course once it is started. Don't be tempted to choose a subject just because your best friend has chosen it – choose wisely for your own future enjoyment and success.

N.B. The provision of courses depends upon sufficient demand and staff availability. Dependent upon these factors the offer of individual courses and the possible number of groups is subject to change.



Trinity Catholic High School

Choosing GCSE Options

Advice to Year 9 students

January 2018



Core subjects

During the first three years at Trinity, you have followed a broad and balanced curriculum, based on the National Curriculum. Most of the subjects are laid down for schools at this Key Stage, to ensure a balanced education, and there is little scope for individual choice. In the course of Year 9, you are given the chance to select some of the subjects you wish to study at Key Stage 4, the next two years up to the GCSE examinations.

The choice of GCSE options is one that takes time, thought and discussion. The purpose of this information is to help you in making that choice.



The majority of students at Trinity study for 9 GCSE subjects, though there is scope for some students to either extend or reduce the number of GCSEs studied.

Certain subjects are compulsory at GCSE and these are known as the Core Subjects. These subjects are studied by **all students** and are as follows:

R.E. - as a full GCSE.

English Language and Literature - worth two full GCSEs.

Maths - as a full GCSE.

Combined Science - worth two full GCSEs. The option also exists to study for Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

An Ebacc Subject - all students are required to study at least one of the following subjects: History, Geography, Triple Science, a modern foreign language (either French or Spanish) or Computer Science.

P.E. - all students have 2 periods per week for PE as part of a core curriculum. An option is available to extend the study of PE by choosing GCSE PE within the option blocks.

PRE & Citizenship - all students will study these subject areas as part of a core curriculum.

Option subjects

As well as the Core Subjects we offer a range of optional subjects. **Students must choose two** of these from within the option block structure.

The option subjects available are:

Art

Business Studies

Computer Science

Construction (a vocational qualification)

Design Technology

Drama

Economics

French

Food Technology

Geography

History

Media Studies

Music

Physical Education

Psychology

Triple Sciences (leading to 3 GCSEs)

Spanish