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**TO KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE GOD**

**Making Informed Choices**

**Year 9**

**2024-2025**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Wednesday 19th March 2025 Year 9 Options Information Assembly

Week beginning 10th March 2025 Subject Presentations

Please bring this booklet to the Year 9 Options Evening on

Wednesday 3rd April 2025

Students are welcome to attend with families.

6.00pm-6.20pm: formal presentation will outline the options process

6.20pm-7.00pm: an opportunity to visit subjects and talk to subject specialists

We will also have our Careers Advisor on hand if you have any questions.

Wednesday 23rd April 2025 Options form need to be handed into your Head of Year

Following this, a letter to parents and pupils will be sent with the final suite of chosen qualification offer.

**THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM**

At St Anne’s RC Voluntary Academy our priority is to ensure that the curriculum we offer our students promotes the development of Catholic values in everyone. In addition, we encourage all our students to become responsible, contributing, and caring members of society.

We are continuing in our effort to develop a range of courses to enable all students, regardless of their academic ability, to experience a challenging, broad, and balanced curriculum which both implicitly and explicitly prepares them for the world of work.

**THE KEY STAGE FOUR CURRICULUM**

**CORE SUBJECTS**

Religious Education

English

Mathematics

Combined Science

Core Physical Education

**Humanities and Language Choice**

Geography

History

Spanish

Computer Science

**Other GCSE Choice**

Art & Design

Business Studies

Drama

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Music

P.E.

Triple Science

**Other Non-GCSE Choice**

Health & Social

**MAKING SENSIBLE CHOICES**

The choices your child makes about what to study at Key Stage 4 are very important and decisions should be made carefully and thoughtfully. Below are some suggestions to help when advising your child.

1. Take your time. Important decisions need lots of thinking about.
2. Talk to your parents and discuss your ideas with them.
3. Find out as much information as you can about the option subjects you are interested in:
* Talk to teachers in charge of various subjects. Read the subject pages in this booklet which tells you about each qualification.
* Ask your Head of Year, for advice
* Talk to the present Year 10/11 students who are studying the options you are interested in.
1. Look at your past Progress Checks and your subject reports. Think about where your strengths lie. **Which subjects are you good at?** You are more likely to be successful in these subjects.
2. **Don’t pick a subject just because your friends are opting for it.** There is no guarantee that you will be in the same group, and it is better in Years 10 and 11 to focus on the subjects you are going to achieve well in.
3. You must also remember that some of the group sizes may be too large or too small and we may have to ask you to make an alternative choice. **It is very important to think carefully about reserve choices.**

The remainder of the booklet gives you more detailed information relation to the different subjects on offer at Key Stage 4.

**Websites that might help with your choice: -**

* [www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk)( The Russell group represents the top 20 leading universities)
* [www.careerpath.com](http://www.careerpath.com)
* [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)
* [www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)
* [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk)

**ASSESSMENT**

**GCSE Courses 2025-2027**

The content and skills required for all GCSE courses is challenging. All examinations are linear and take place at the end of the two years. When pupils receive their GCSE in these subjects, they will be awarded a number from 9(highest) to 1 (lowest).

**Tiering in GCSE Examinations**

There is no tiering for the GCSE English qualification. All pupils will sit the same examination paper.

Mathematics, Science, Spanish will be examined through a Higher and Foundation Tier- the distribution of the numbered grades 1 to 9 between the two tiers is 5 to 9 for Higher and 1 to 5 for Foundation.

**Why is tiering used in some GCSE examinations?**

Tiering provides students with the opportunity to show what they know, understand and do by presenting them with question papers that are targeted at a band of attainment. For each tier of entry, the written question papers will:

* Be at an appropriate level of difficulty for the range of grades available at that tier.
* Prompt the more able to respond at a greater dept.
* Provide opportunities for the less able to show what they know.
* Use appropriate language.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Old GCSEs** | **New GCSEs** | **BTEC** | **BTEC Technical Award** |
| **Level 2** | A\* | 9 | L2D\* | L2D\* |
| 8 |
| A | 7 | L2D | L2D |
| B | 6 | L2M | L2M |
| C | 5 | L2P | L2P |
|  |
| **Level 1** | D | 4 |  | L1D |
| E | 3 | L1P |
| F | 2 | L1M |
| G | 1 |  | L1P |