

**Venerable Bede CE Academy**

*"Soar to the heights together"*



Welcome to your  
**KS4 Curriculum Choices**  
**2016**

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Welcome from

**Mrs. Booth - Executive Headteacher**

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Welcome from

**Mr. D. Airey - Head of School**



## Curriculum Change

- Reforms to validity of qualifications
- Changes to the “difficulty” of new GCSE to increase challenge
- First year group through to have a mixture of point (Maths and English), and Grades for GCSE
- Mr Charlton will discuss this further

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## What choice will I have?

- Our curriculum must provide each pupil with the appropriate GCSE's to enable them to access the next pathway after school
- We have invited a number of partners into school to answer any queries you might have

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## Partners:

- At the back of the hall we have representatives from Sunderland College and connexions, both of whom are able to answer your questions about Post-16 pathways including vocational routes.



## What is "The English Baccalaureate"?

- English
- Mathematics
- GCSE Double Science
- Modern Foreign Language
- History or Geography

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**Mr. A. Charlton**  
Assistant Headteacher



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## **Aim:**

- To give you an overview of the GCSE reforms and how they will affect your son/daughter.
- To explain the choices available to you in Year 9
- Provide advice to enable appropriate choices to be made.

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# GCSE Changes



## GCSE Changes:

- Expanded subject content.
- Removal of controlled assessment.
- More demanding exam papers.
- Removal of tiering in most subjects.
- Awarded grades on a 1-9 scale.



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# Options Choices

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## **"Core" Subjects:**

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined or Triple Sciences)
- PE
- RE
- PD

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## “Core Choice” Subjects:

- Geography
- History
- Languages (Spanish or French)

If you want to be awarded the **EBacc**, you will be required to study a language plus Geography or History.

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## Optional Subjects -

Depending on whether you are studying the EBacc, you will be able to pick one or two subjects from:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- Graphic Products
- Health and Social Care
  
- Media Studies





## Alternative Curriculum/Study Support

- May suit a small minority of Learners who will need support to access our KS4 Curriculum.
- Can be used to develop social and personal skills
- Recognises Pupil achievement in areas other than GCSE

N.B. Please discuss with Miss Fox (SENDCo) and Mrs Birtwistle in the first instance.



## Making a decision:

- Which subjects do I enjoy?
- What lessons am I good at?
- What subjects will help me most in my future career plans?
- Look at your strengths/weaknesses, what you do well and what interests you



## Key Points:

- Research all your options carefully
- If you have a firm career idea, choose the options you need to meet the entry requirements
- **Options choices are provisional.** Courses can only run if a minimum number of students want to study that subject
- **We can not guarantee** everyone will get all of their **first choice** options.



## Option Choice Forms

- Students have received personalised options forms.
- They will need to be returned to the Main School Office by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March**.
- All pupils will have an individual check of their options forms.
- Additional 1:1 discussions will take place as appropriate between school, pupils and parent/carers.

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## What next?

- Look around school at all the subject areas.
- Senior Staff are available in the Hall to answer queries.
- Miss Fox our SENDCo is available in R25

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Thank you for taking part in your  
**KS4 Curriculum Choices 2016**

**Any further questions** please remain behind to have a chat