

Venerable Bede CE Academy

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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 10
- Provide advice to enable appropriate choices to be made.

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GCSE Changes



GCSE Changes:

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

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New GCSEs:

- Art
- Computer Science
- Drama
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

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'Old' GCSEs / BTECs:

- **Business Studies**
- **Information Technology**
- **Graphics**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **Media Studies**
- **Resistant Materials**
- **Textiles**

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New GCSE Grades

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Options Choices

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"Core" Subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Double Award)
- 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
- Music
- History
- Information Technology
- Physical Education
- Resistant Materials
- Textiles
- Spanish



How much choice do I have?

Please read the letter in the front of the Curriculum Booklet.

- **Compulsory “Core Subjects”**

Everyone has to do them

- **Compulsory “Core Choice” Subjects**

*All students will study History **Or** Geography*

Most students in 9R1/9W1 and some from 9R2/9W2 will need to also study a language.

- **Options**

Pupils have a free choice over which subjects to study. All pupils will get at least one option choice.



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 (Head of Year 9) 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

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Key Points:

- Research all your options carefully
- Remember there is no such thing as a 'Boy's Subject' or a 'Girl's Subject'
- 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. I **can** guarantee that if it is not possible I will discuss this with pupils/parents/carers.



Option Choice Forms

- Personalised Option Forms will be given to students next week.
- They will need to be returned to the Main School Office by **Friday 11th 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