



GCSE Options 2024

Building New Horizons Through Love, Faith and Excellence

#TeamTBCS
#MissiontoExcellence
#ShowMeExcellence



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH



Exams change...

...but school is still school!



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**Many of today's
most in-demand
jobs did not exist
10 years ago.**



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**Some researchers
predict that over half
of today's primary
school pupils will
hold jobs that do not
yet exist.**



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**Today's learner will have over
10 jobs by the age of 38.**

**1 in 4 workers have been with
their current employer for
less than a year.**

**1 in 2 have been there less
than five years.**



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using technologies
that haven't
been invented...



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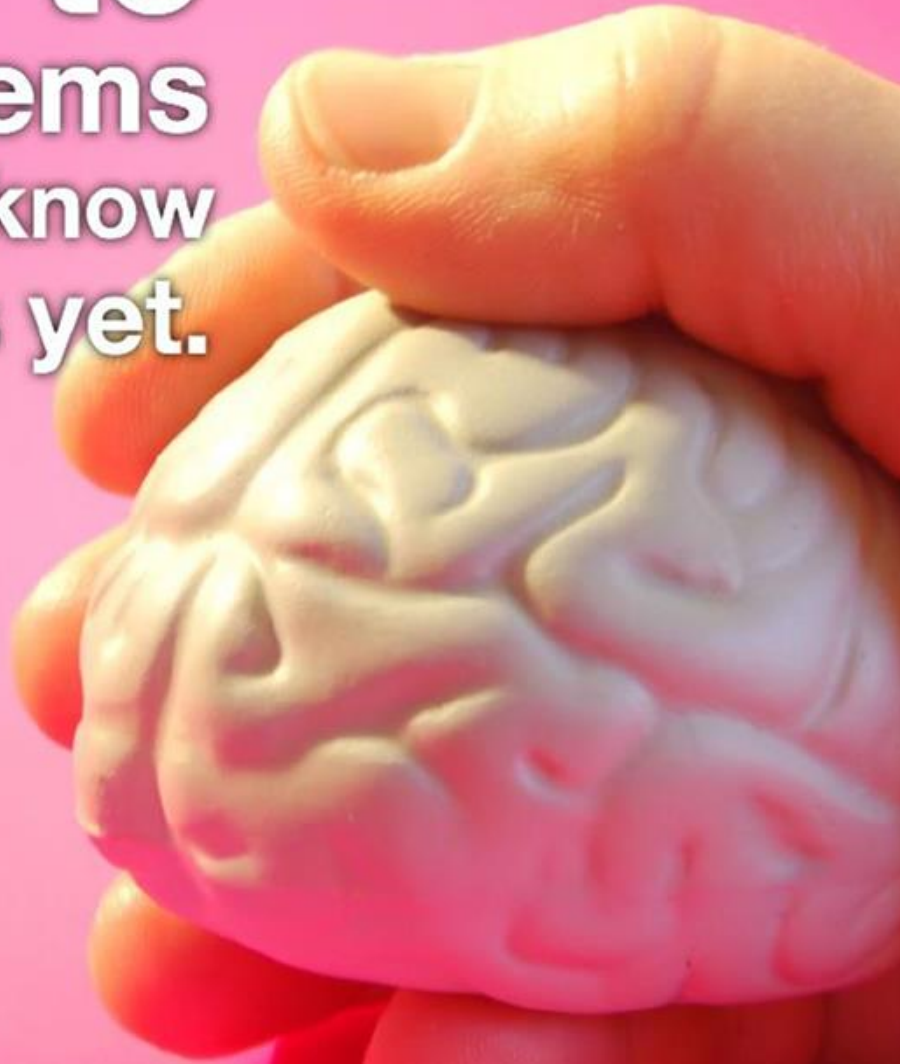
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**in order to
solve problems
we don't even know
are problems yet.**



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The world beyond TBCS

- Your children will have to remain in Education or training until they are 18.
- The Government believes that adults will be 22-23 years old before they embark upon a career.
- As adults your children will probably change career 2-3 times during their adult lives and have 10-14 jobs by the age of 38. They will work to the age of 70+ before retirement.
- The days of a lifelong career with one company or within one industry have gone.



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How are we preparing your children for this future?



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All students at Thomas Becket are entitled to a curriculum that is:

- Broad and Balanced
- Relevant
- Challenging
- Enjoyable
- Personalised



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Subjects your child must take: The **Compulsory element**

- Religious Education
- English Language and English Literature
- Maths (some may study Further Maths)
- Science (this will be either Trilogy or Separate)
- PE

Further core elements in PSHE including Citizenship, Relationship, Sex and Health education.



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GCSE Options – Non-compulsory element

- Students will then need to choose a further **3** options
- They will need to spend some time thinking about this
- What should they choose?
 - Think about what they want to do when they leave school
 - Ensure that they have a wide range of subjects
 - Above all, make sure they are interested in the subject



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Important point

- Option choices do not depend on what set a student is in.
- All students have the **same** option choices.



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Meeting individual needs

- Three separate Sciences and further Maths for some.
- A bespoke programme (core studies) with some 'guided choice' for a few students for whom a full programme of GCSE courses might not be appropriate.
- We will always meet and discuss any bespoke provision with students and parents.



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**“IT’S HARDER
NOW
MUM!”**



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The 'new' style GCSEs

- More rigorous - harder
- Bigger – more content
- Tiers only when necessary
- Linear with terminal exam – little chance to re-sit (except English and Maths post 16)
- No coursework except in a few subjects (The Arts, Design Technology, Graphics, Food, Sports Science, etc.)
- **And... a new (ish!) grading system**



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Grading the New GCSEs in 2017

Ofqual

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
<div><div><div>4 = C and above and above</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.</div></div></div>									



Performance measures

5 or more A* to C including English and Maths is **not** the main measure of attainment

NOW

Grade 4 ('standard pass') and 5 ('strong pass') in English and Maths



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Grade 4 and 5 in English and Maths

- Grades 4/5 in English and Maths remain a key standard
- It will continue to be a key minimum requirement for many courses, apprenticeships & jobs
- Grade 5 is aligned with the average performance from high flying countries in international league tables
- 'Raising the bar'



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The Ebacc – it is a performance measure

- English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
 - It is a collection of subjects a student can study. Achieved when:
 - Grade 5 (or above) in English, Maths, Two Sciences, a Language and either History or Geography

‘The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a School performance measure, not a qualification. It is not compulsory’ DfE

- Universities have not made the EBacc a part of their admissions criteria nor have any local post-16 providers



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Our view on the EBacc

- We support the idea of a **broad and balanced curriculum** that has some flexibility to meet the needs and aspirations of all our students
- We want students to have choice
- Studying the EBacc subjects alongside one of the Arts and a Technology subject would provide breadth and balance

We **will not** insist on students doing the full suite of EBacc subjects



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Progress in the 'Best 8' subjects

- The 'best 8' is an important measure for both your child and us.
- The 'best 8' subjects **have** to include **5 of the EBacc subjects** and **3 others**
- We already do English, Maths and at least two Sciences = 4 EBacc subjects
- Students will need to pick one more.

As a result, nearly all our students will now be required to study at least one of:

SPANISH, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY



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Choices



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Criteria students should consider when choosing options

- I like the subject ✓
- I think it will help my future ✓
- I am good at the subject ✓
- My friends are choosing it X
- I like the teacher X



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Things to consider:

- Subjects that suit you son's/daughter's personality
- What is the % of controlled assessment/coursework to exam in some of your subjects?
- Very few subjects now do controlled assessments- most are examination based
- Will they enjoy the content?
- Combination of subjects – future?



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Role of the parent

- Support
- Guidance – who to talk to
- Informed – understand the process and implications
- Work with us
- Ask questions
- Ensure form is completed by the deadline Monday 4th March



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Options form

Choose one in
each column

At least one of
your options
should be a
subject in **bold**

To keep your options for post 16 as wide as possible, you must choose at least **one** option from the following (in bold on the options form):

- History
- Geography
- Spanish



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Options form



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What to do next?

- Visit all the departments this evening, talk to staff and ask questions.
- Read the Options Booklet as it will include all the information about content and exams
- Option forms to be completed by Monday 4th March. It can be completed sooner if you wish
- Take your time to make the right decision- don't rush it
- It does **need** to be authorised by parent(s)/carer(s). This will be via the authorised tick box on the MS Form.



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