

GCSE Options 2022



Christ's Love is Our Foundation

*Building New Horizons Through Love,
Faith and Excellence*

Exams change...

...but school is
still school!

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

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

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

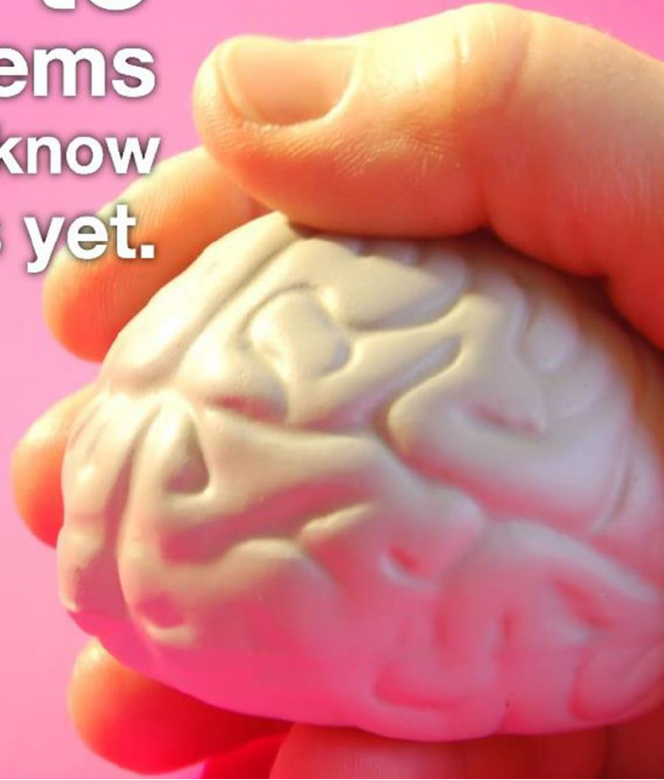
**1 in 4 workers have been with their
current employer for less than a
year.**

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

using technologies
**that haven't
been invented...**



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



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.

How are we preparing
your children for this
future?

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

Broad and Balanced
Relevant
Challenging
Enjoyable
Personalised

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

- **Religious Education**
- **English Language and English Literature**
- **Maths**
- **Science** - Separate Sciences for all in Year 10-decision will be made after Year 10 Exams who will do Combined Science and Separate Sciences in Year 11
- **PE**

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

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

Important point

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

**“IT’S HARDER
NOW
MUM!”**

The 'new' style GCSEs

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

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
<div><div><div>4 = C and aboveand 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

1. Grade 4 ('standard pass') and 5 ('strong pass') in English and Maths
2. The **EBacc** measure - a suite of specific subjects at grade 5 or above

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'

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

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

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

However...

- Students should consider studying the Ebacc suite of subjects if they are thinking about **some** higher education courses in the future as they are seen by many as more 'academic'.
- They can study these subjects **if they want to.**

Choices



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

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??

Options form

Choose one in
each column

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

To keep your options 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**
- **French (native speakers only)**

Options form

OPTION LINE 1	OPTION LINE 2	OPTION LINE 3
GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY
SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH
HISTORY	FRENCH (French speakers only)	HISTORY
DANCE	HISTORY	ART DESIGN
LEVEL 1& 2 HOSPITALITY and CATERING	RESISTANT MATERIALS (20)	RESISTANT MATERIALS (20)
COMPUTER SCIENCE	MUSIC	GRAPHICS
BUSINESS STUDIES	BUSINESS STUDIES	BUSINESS STUDIES
	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (BTEC)	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (BTEC)
	SPORTS STUDIES (OCR CAM NAT)	SPORTS STUDIES (OCR CAM NAT)
	PHOTOGRAPHY	DRAMA
	CORE STUDIES	CORE STUDIES
Please write down one reserve for each Option Line in each Block		

Options form example

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SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH
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What to do next?

- Visit all the departments this evening, talk to staff and current GCSE students
- Read the GCSE prospectus as it will include all the information about content and exams
- Option forms to be returned to the main office by the Wednesday 30th March- it can hand in sooner if you wish
- Take your time to make the right decision- don't rush it
- It does **need** to be signed by parent(s)/carer(s)