

Pathways FAQ

What happens if a subject is oversubscribed?

If more students choose a subject in their first two choices than we have places for we will give priority to students who picked it as first choice. For the remaining places available we will randomly select students who chose it as second choice. For any students who didn't get selected, they will be given priority for their reserve choice.

Why do I need to rank order my pathways choices?

If a subject is oversubscribed we will give priority to students who picked it as their first choice.

Why do I have to select a reserve subject?

Students need to select their pathways options in order of preference (rank ordered). Most students will study the top choices they pick. Occasionally, we cannot offer students all one of their preferred choices. This might be because a subject is oversubscribed or not enough students choose it so it cannot run. If this happens we will give them priority for their reserve choice.

What happens if a subject I have selected as one of my choices is oversubscribed?

If more students choose a subject than we have places for we will give priority to students who picked it as first choice. For the remaining places available we will randomly select students who chose it as second choice. For any students who didn't get selected, they will be given priority for their third choice.

What happens if I get given my reserve choice?

If you are given your reserve choice as a subject then this is the subject you will be doing. This is why it's really important you pick a reserve choice which you would be happy to do if that situation happened.

What is the EBacc?

The EBacc is a suite of subjects that are most regularly asked for by colleges and universities. Although students do not need to have studied all of these to go on to higher education, having a mix of subjects geared towards the EBacc will help keep your options open. The Russell Group of Universities (a collaboration of 20 leading UK universities) are not only interested in the results that students achieve at GCSE and A Level, they are increasingly expecting pupils to have breadth of study as well as rigour in what they study. This generally means they consider the traditional academic subjects, such as those included in the EBacc, as more appropriate for entry to their universities. The EBacc subjects keep the Russell Group 'facilitating subjects' open. Facilitating subjects (English literature, History, Languages, Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Geography) and are helpful for access to the most selective courses and universities at 18.

How can I find out more about Psychology?

A pathways page with GCSE content and examination information will be sent home for you to read with your parents. You will be given access to an optional virtual taster lesson on your tutor google classroom page. If you are considering taking Psychology as a GCSE, we strongly recommend you look at this session to help you understand what this course entails. Please be advised that numbers will be limited for this course.



Can I take Dance and Drama?

Yes. We encourage students to have a broad and balanced suite of subjects and our core curriculum provides this so students can choose to study the subjects that really interest them, and this includes choosing two arts subjects (Dance, Drama, Music, Art).

Can I take Art and Technology?

Yes. We encourage students to have a broad and balanced suite of subjects and our core curriculum provides this so students can choose to study the subjects that really interest them including Art and Design and Technology.

Can I take Art and Photography?

No. These are actually specialisms of the same GCSE course so students can only study one of these as part of their broad and balanced suite of subjects. They can rank them both in their choices, but they will only be given one of these.

Can I take Design Technology: Textiles and Design Technology: Woods, Metals, Plastics?

No. These are actually specialisms of the same GCSE course so students can only study one of these as part of their broad and balanced suite of subjects. They can rank them both in their choices, but they will only be given one of these.

Can I take Food and Nutrition and Design Technology (either specialism)?

No. Due to the high Non Examination Assessment requirements of both these courses in Year 11, students can only study one of these as part of their broad and balanced suite of subjects. They can rank them both in their choices, but they will only be given one of these.

