

KS4 Options Evening



20th March 2025

Headteacher Welcome

- An important moment
- Our help and support for you
- Our curriculum offer

Introduction

- What to expect from this evening
- How long does the process take?
- Who provides guidance?

Laying Solid Foundations

All students at St Antony's are entitled to a curriculum that is:

- Broad and balanced
- Relevant
- Challenging
- Enjoyable
- Personalised

An Important Point to Make

All students at St Antony's have the same option choices available to them regardless of SEND or prior attainment

KS4 Timetable – How are the Lessons Broken Down?

Curriculum Area	Y10	Y11
English (Lang and Lit)	9	9
Maths	8	8
Science (Combined)	9	9
RE	5	5
Option 1	5	5
Option 2	5	5
Option 3	5	5
Core PE	2	2
Personal Development	2	2

Broad and Balanced

To ensure that a broad and balanced curriculum is being followed, students must choose at least one of the following options:

- Geography
- History
- Please note, if the timetable allows, students may take both Geography and History

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

- This is the name given to a specific group of subjects indicating that a pupil has studied a broad and balanced curriculum
- Subjects included: English, Maths, Science, Geography or History and a language
- This group of options is open to all pupils and is a route we strongly encourage

The Benefits of the EBacc

- The EBacc is made up of subjects which are considered essential to the opening up of lots of doors in both employment and further education
- Research indicates that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths
- Studying the EBacc increases the likelihood of a young person remaining in full-time education

The Benefits of the EBacc - French

- There have been adjustments made by the government to the qualification to make it more accessible
- Learning more than one language increases your brain capacity and you have better memory skills – a published study found multi-lingual students performed better in all subjects
- Learning a foreign language helps you understand your own language and your success in studying it
- Languages are highly regarded by employers and universities
- Those with language qualifications earn, on average, 10% more money
- It's an impressive achievement to speak a foreign language and you'll have better options for your future – work and travel
- French is a fast growing, global language, it is present in all continents and in the fastest growing continent, sub-Saharan Africa
- You develop a better ability to switch between tasks and also your attention span is improved

Triple Science

- All pupils gain 2 qualifications in Science. Triple Science enables pupils to gain 3 qualifications
- Those opting for this will have Science 14 times in a fortnight – Science twice a day on several occasions
- Triple Science is open to all pupils
- Talk in Science directly after this presentation with Mr Uglow in Sci2

Are there any new qualifications?

We are continuing to review our provision for next academic year. The following subjects, depending on levels of interest, are likely to feature on the offer this year:

- BTEC Health & Social Care
- IT
- Spanish (see next slide)

GCSE Spanish – Key points

- The new GCSE specification assumes no prior learning
- However, it will only be open to students who are willing to do an extra hour each fortnight to cover foundational knowledge. The extra hour is compulsory not optional

Option List

Option 1

GCSE Geography or History

Option 2

GCSE French - strongly recommended

Further Option 2 and Option 3 choices

GCSE Business

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Music

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Triple Science

BTEC Information Technology (IT)

BTEC Health & Social Care

Cambridge National – Sports Science

Vocational Award – Hospitality and Catering

GCSE Art, Craft & Design (see next slide)

GCSE Art, Craft & Design

This option allows pupils to specialize in a choice of 3 areas:

- 3D Design & Graphics
- Fine Art & Photography
- Graphics & Textiles

GCSE and Non-GCSE qualifications

GCSE Qualifications

Geography, History, French, Spanish, Business, Computer Science, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education, Triple Science and Art, Craft & Design

GCSE qualifications are typically assessed by exams at the end of Y11

Non-GCSE Qualifications

- BTEC Digital Information Technology (IT)
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- Cambridge National – Sports Science
- Vocational Award – Hospitality and Catering

The above qualifications are typically assessed through a combination of internal assessments (coursework) and external assessments (usually 1 exam)

Example of a Broad and Balanced Curriculum

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science
- RE
- Option 1 - A humanity: Geography or History
- Option 2 - A language: French
- Option 3 – other subjects

Option Restrictions

- Pupils will only be allowed to take one subject from the Art/Technology suite of subjects
- Class sizes have limits – practical subjects generally have smaller numbers
- There will be an initial survey which will be used to generate 3 blocks of the most popular choices and combinations of subjects. Following this, the official options form will be sent home. It is anticipated that around 95% of choices will be met.
- All pupils need to select a reserve choice
- Option forms need to be signed by parents

What Next?

- Please ask questions this evening
- Take a booklet
- Please discuss with form tutors
- There will be an opportunities in school to talk to senior teachers, class teachers and form tutors
- The information from this evening will start to appear on the website from tomorrow onwards
- Initial surveys will come out prior to Easter
- This will be followed after Easter by the official options form

Tonight's Rooms

- Triple Science – Science 2 –
- Geography – Room 3
- History – Room 1
- Music - Music Room
- Computer Science and IT – Computer Room 4
- French – Computer Room 3
- PE – Computer Room 2
- Health & Social Care – Computer Room 1
- Art and Technology subjects – Computer Room 6
- Hospitality & Catering – Food Room
- Business – Mr Campbell is available in the hall/R15