

2022-23 Options Assembly

options@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk



Qualifications System in England

www.theparentsguideto.co.uk

Level	Qualification / educational route				
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4-9 (C, B, A or A*)			BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1-3 (D,E,F or G)			Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route		Vocational route		Applied / work route

You will all do:-

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science
- BTEC Sport
- GCSE RE



How many do I choose?

- You will choose an additional 3 subjects
- Choose what you are good at and/or what you enjoy
- Do NOT choose a subject because your friend is doing it or because you like the teacher.



Everyone will have to choose at least **ONE** of:-

- Geography

or

- History

or

- a language

or

- Computer Science (if grade 5 at Maths)

or

- Triple Science

(only if on the list produced by the Science Department in February)



ST MICHAEL'S
Church of England High School

Triple Science means:-



- You do not do Combined Science; you study 3 GCSEs:-
 - GCSE Biology
 - GCSE Physics
 - GCSE Chemistry
- 9 lessons per week and 9 exams at the end

EBacc

Is not a qualification

It is a collection of academic subjects

“Enablers” – They enable you to apply for almost anything and give you the widest choice post-16

- English-Maths-Science
- History or Geography
- A language



EBacc continued...

- When you log in to options online, you may be given a form that forces you to choose a language and one of History or Geography.
- If you do not want to be in the EBacc cohort (because you want to do a language but NOT History/Geography OR you do not want to do a language), please write a letter from your parents to Mr Mackinney explaining why. This will then be considered – but not necessarily agreed to.
- We do not want to force anyone to study a subject they do not want to do but we do want to guide students towards enabling subjects, and people who have language qualifications do better on average in their work careers than those who do not.



Other subjects you can choose:

Vocationals = 1 GCSE

- BTEC Digital IT
- BTEC Enterprise
- BTEC Music
- BTEC Performing Arts
- BTEC Children's Play and Development
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- WJEC Voc Award Hospitality/Catering

GCSEs

- Geography
- History
- Triple Science
- Spanish
- French
- German
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Art – Fine Art
- Art – Textiles
- Design Technology



A Note on GCSE Music and PE

- *In the past, some talented musicians have been disappointed that we do not offer GCSE music. This has mostly been because it has not been possible to create a class large enough to justify running the GCSE. However, to qualify for A Level music at King Edward's, they will accept grade 5 practical (on voice or instrument) and grade 3 in music theory instead of a Music GCSE.*
- *With regard to PE, now that every student can do BTEC Sport, this course does not run. It appears that the course has such a high bar in terms of ability in more than one sport that it is prohibitive. For example, a county footballer might be disadvantaged if they are not district level in at least one other sport.*



Pathways

- You may notice that the options form you log into has slight differences from other people.
- We have tried to tailor the form to reflect your performance in school so far.
- If you cannot study a subject, or combination of subjects, that you are desperate to follow, please write to Mr Mackinney explaining your reasons.



Ebacc continued

- The options forms will be on www.sims-options.co.uk in March and a guide to logging in will be posted at this time. The first login has to be done in school then after that, you can log in from anywhere.
- Once you have logged in, follow the on-screen instructions.
- We will use school data, plus information from form teachers and Head of Year to decide the most appropriate pathway for your child. However, this is only a recommendation and you are entitled to contact your child's form teacher, or Mr Mackinney, to discuss a change of pathway.



Options Deadline

Option choices are due in anytime after the form is made live, but the final deadline is

Monday, March 27th 2022

options@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk

