

Pathways - Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between Pathway 1 and Pathway 2?

This is explained in detail in the Welcome video above. The essential difference is this:

Pathway 1 is our EBacc pathway. The EBacc is a set of subjects that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The subjects are: English language and literature, maths, the sciences, geography or history and a language. You can find out more about the EBacc on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>

It is the government's intention for as many people as possible to take EBacc subjects.

Pathway 2 still allows pupils to choose the same EBacc subjects as Pathway 1 if they want to.

How can I tell if my child is on Pathway 1 or Pathway 2?

All pupils have been emailed through their school email address. When you open the link to the option form it will clearly say which pathway your child is on.

Why is my child on their particular Pathway?

The majority of our pupils will be following Pathway 1. A small proportion of pupils who have historically achieved not as highly are on Pathway 2. Anyone on Pathway 2 will still be able to choose the EBacc subjects if they want to take on the challenge.

Can I choose to do a different Pathway?

Your Pathway is fixed and you cannot change from one to another.

Why are all Pathway 1 pupils taking a language?

Languages keep doors open, help pupils to achieve more highly in other subjects (especially English) and people with languages qualifications will be increasingly sought by employers in our post-Brexit society. This video, explains why we – along with most schools – are prioritising languages in our curriculum: <https://vimeo.com/521761365>

If my child is on Pathway 2, will this change their sets for core subjects?

Sets for core subjects (English, maths and science) are not determined by pupils being on either Pathway. This means, for instance, that in the same core subject group you could have pupils on Pathway 1 and Pathway 2 sitting next to each other. Core subjects are set based on pupils' past and present performance. Pupils will be placed into new sets for the start of Year 10. Sets are regularly reviewed to make sure pupils are receiving the targeted guidance they require to make progress.

Why is Triple Science now an option subject?

All pupils have to do at least Combined Science. This is where you will study elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is worth 2 GCSEs. Triple Science is when you study further topics in the 3 disciplines of science and you will achieve a whole GCSE grade for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will be awarded 3 GCSEs. We have, in the previous years, allowed pupils who show a talent in science to complete the Triple Science route in the 4 hours allocated on their timetable. With the increase of content in the new GCSEs we have found it really difficult to fit all of the topics needed into that time. That is why you can opt for Triple Science as one of your options. This will give you 3 extra hours on top of the 4 hours that everyone has to do in order to complete all of the required units in the qualifications.