

Year 8 Curriculum Information

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At St George we ASPIRE to become all that God has created us to be



What is being covered?

- This presentation;
 - How will the options process be carried out?
 - What are the different types of qualifications, and how do grades work?
 - Why does Saint George organise things this way?
- Also available;
 - Information booklet giving more detail on the individual courses being offered at Key Stage 4



Saint George Catholic College – Our Curriculum

- **Key Stage 3 (years 7 & 8) – Accelerated**

- Broad and balanced range of subjects
- English, Maths, Science, RE, History, Geography, French/Spanish, Art, Technology, Dance, Drama, Music, Computer Science and PE

- **Key Stage 4 (years 9, 10 & 11) – Enhanced**

- All pupils study:
 - English literature
 - English language
 - Maths
 - Combined Science (double award)
 - RE
 - Core PE
 - 4 guided option choices in year 9, reduced to three in years 10 & 11



What are GCSE courses like?

- All GCSEs are **linear** courses (no module exams)
- Assessment is mainly by **exam**
 - Non-examination assessment (coursework) has been removed from almost all subjects (full details for each course in the options information booklet sent home)
- **Numerical grading 9-1**
 - Grade 4 = Standard Pass
 - Grade 5 = Strong Pass
- **Reduced tiers** – remain only in Maths, Science and Languages (all papers must be the same tier for each subject)



Vocational Courses

Saint George offers both academic and vocational courses

Suitable for pupils who prefer fewer exams. They are assessed through coursework and are at the same level as GCSEs

Vocational Courses:

BTEC Level 2 Technical Award - Digital Information Technology

BTEC Level 2 Technical Award - Sport

BTEC Level 2 Technical Award - Business Enterprise

BTEC Level 2 Technical Award – Health & Social Care

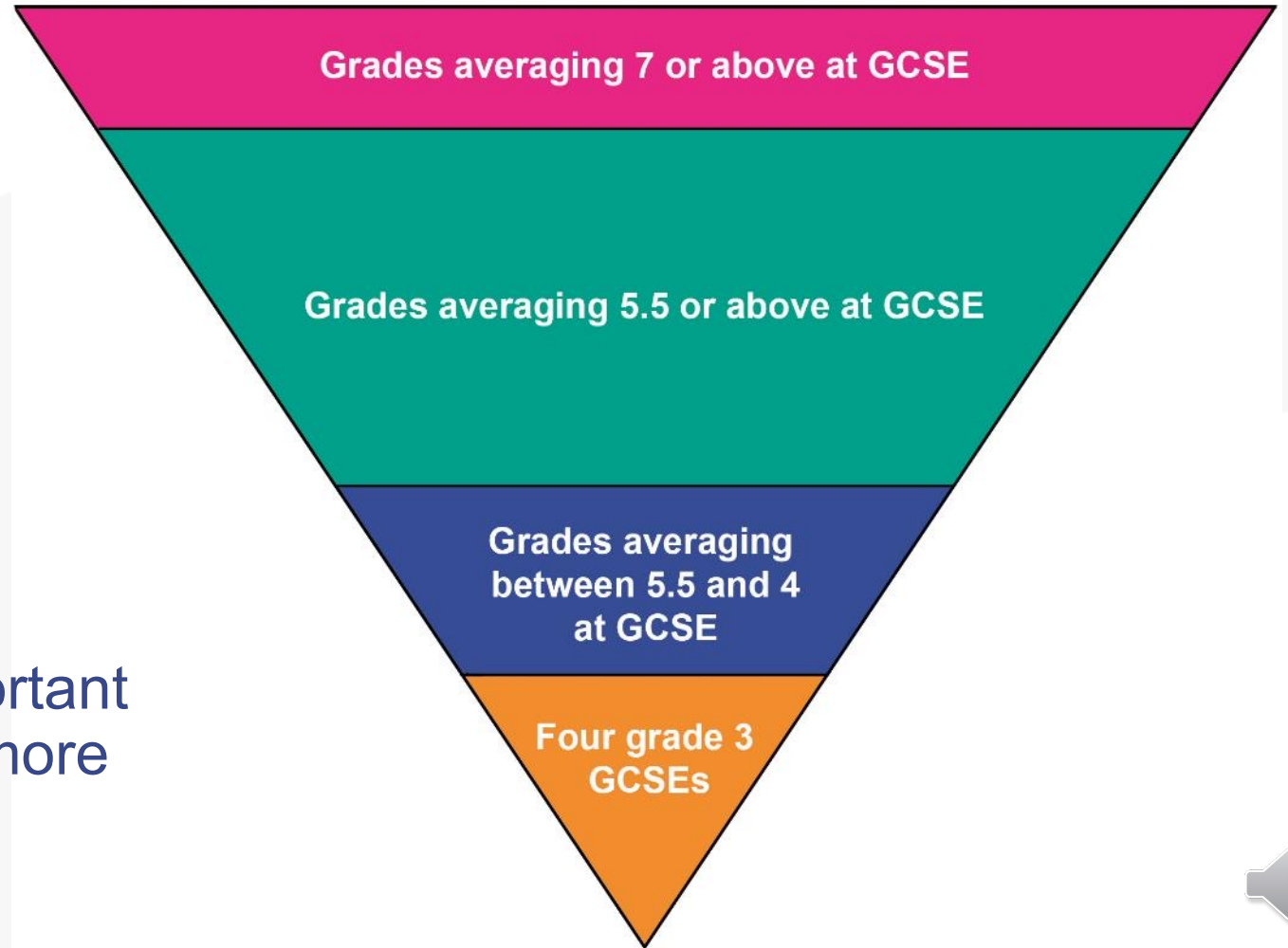
WJEC Vocational Technical Award - Performing Arts (Drama)

Best to speak to Head of Department (Options Evening – 19th October) to find out more about different courses in the same subject



Better grades leads to more choice

- Your grades at GCSE do affect the options open to you. They are important and the stronger your grades, the more options you have



THE IMPORTANCE OF GCSEs

Medicine requires very good GCSEs in Maths, English & Science

Psychology requires a 5/6 in Maths & sometimes a 5/6 in Science

Teacher Training requires a min. of 4/5 in Maths, English & Science

Most look for at least a grade 4/5 in English and Maths

University

Competitive universities can ask for much higher GCSE grades!

Your results can determine not only where you go on but also the subjects which you can take!



The foundations of your **Academic Journey!**

Our strategy: Accelerate, the enhance

- **An accelerated curriculum** means students will have completed the KS3 National Curriculum by the end of Year 8
- In years 9-11 students follow an **enhanced Key Stage 4** curriculum using the additional time to have a broader and deeper experience within those subjects the students continue to study
- **Double options process, guided by the school**, means students can refine options over a longer time period – avoids narrowing curriculum early and ensures students are on courses where they are most likely to succeed



Key Stage 4 curriculum time

- Year 9:**

- Increased number of periods for English, Maths and Science to 7 periods per fortnight
- Four core PE lessons per fortnight
- Five RE lessons per fortnight

RE 5 Periods	PE 4 Periods	English 7 Periods	Maths 7 Periods	Science 7 Periods
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- Start four Guided Option subjects – 5 lessons each over two weeks

Option W	Option X	Option Y	Option Z
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Key Stage 4 curriculum time

- Year 10 & 11:**

- Increased number of periods for English, Maths and Science
- Reduce core PE lessons
- Reduce Guided Options from four subjects to three, and increase lessons for each remaining option subject

RE 5 Periods	PE 2 Periods	English 8 Periods	Maths 8 Periods	Science 9 Periods
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Option X 6 Periods	Option Y 6 Periods	Option Z 6 Periods
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Options Pathways

- **EBacc Pathway**

- Two of your choices have to be:
 - French or Spanish (whichever you are currently studying)
 - History or Geography (you can do both)
- Two further options of your own choice

- **Core Pathway**

- One of your choices has to be:
 - History or Geography or French or Spanish
- Three further options of your own choice

- **Foundation Pathway**

- One of your choices has to be:
 - History or Geography or French or Spanish
- Where a vocational route is available for a subject you need to take that rather than GCSE



Guided Options Process – Year 8

- **Currently:** Curriculum information presentation
 - On website for parents and pupils
 - Options Information booklets posted home
- **17th October:** Options Assembly
 - Heard from each Head of Department about the courses on offer
- **19th October:** Curriculum Information Evening (6pm)
 - Opportunity for pupils and parents to speak to Heads of Department and have any questions answered
- **w/c 30th October:** First indication poll
 - Mr Douglas or Mr Habberley will speak to each pupil individually and see what your current choices are, based on which pathway you have been assigned to
- **14th December:** Mentoring Day
 - Appointment to see member of SLT after tutor to discuss options and agree four choices
- **June 2024:** Confirm final option allocations



Guided Options Form – Mentoring Day

Student:

Mr Habberley

Tutor Group:

08DL

Pathway:

EBacc Pathway - Two of their four subjects must be the language they are currently studying and either History or Geography but they can do both if they want.

Suggested Guided Options:

History (GCSE Full Course)

Art (GCSE Full Course)

French (GCSE Full Course)

Business GCSE (GCSE Full Course)

Please note: Only subjects with an open white box are available to choose from. Any subjects with a X can't be chosen.



Results trend

Headline Measure	Result 2020	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	National average
Basics – (% English/Maths Standard Pass 4+)	87	83	86		64
Basics – (% English/Maths Strong Pass 5+)	64	58	73		43
Progress 8	0.64	0.58	0.75		-0.03
Attainment 8	57.9	53.9	60.7		46.4



Thank you!

- Please read through the Options Information Booklet
- Encourage your child to discuss and ask questions of their teachers
- Attend the Options Information Evening (19th October, 6pm)
- **If you have any further questions, please contact us:**
 - Mr Douglas
edouglas@stgcc.co.uk
 - Miss Foord
afoord@stgcc.co.uk

