



## CHOOSING KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS

Which way now?





# Key Stage 4 Curriculum

## MAKING YOUR DECISIONS

### Spring Term 2023

In the spring term (2023) we will be working with the Year 9 students and supporting them through the Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) options process. This booklet aims to give you, as parents/carers some provisional information about the Key Stage 4 curriculum at The John Fisher School.

### What subjects will my son be able to choose?

Ancient History GCSE** >	Food preparation and Nutrition GCSE >
Art and Design GCSE >	French GCSE** >
Business Studies GCSE >	Geography GCSE** >
Business Studies (Enterprise) BTEC >	History GCSE** >
Computer Studies GCSE** >	Music GCSE >
Design and Technology GCSE >	Spanish GCSE** >
Digital Information Technology BTEC >	Sports Studies GCSE >
Drama GCSE >	Sports Studies BTEC >
Economics GCSE >	

### Why do some subjects have \*\* after them?

- These subjects indicate that they are part of the English Baccalaureate (also known as Ebacc) pathway.
- Further information on this can be found on the next page.

### How many subjects will my son need to choose?

- Usually, a student picks 4 subjects (\*\* indicate the Ebacc pathway).
- There are some combinations of subjects that are not possible, we will let you know the detail of this in the spring term.

### Is there anything else I need to do now?

- If you haven't done so already, you may want to start discussing with your son what he might be interested in choosing. In the spring term we will be providing much more detail on each subject.
- There is no need to contact the school to discuss options at this stage. We will be dedicating time to this in the spring term.
- There are some links on the final page of this document that you may find helpful.



# The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) Pathway



## MAKING YOUR DECISIONS

### What is the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

The school has high aspirations for attainment for all students. That is why we offer the Ebacc as a guided pathway.

The Department for Education indicate that the EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees.

The EBacc is:

- English language and literature
- maths
- the sciences
- geography or history
- a language

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

### Why are there other subjects on offer if the Ebacc is considered important?

- Offering additional subjects enables students that do choose the Ebacc pathway to also choose some additional GCSE subjects
- We also recognise that the Ebacc pathway may not be appropriate for all students, despite the fact it is strongly encouraged.
- We therefore, offer subjects outside of the Ebacc to maintain breadth in our offer.

### What about careers support?

- Students in Years 8-13 are offered careers support.
- We offer careers leaders and independent advice for students with EHCP's.
- We recognise the importance of The Baker Clause, in that we allow colleges and training providers access to every student in Years 8-13 to discuss non-academic routes.
- We also aim to impartially promote the full range of technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.



# Next Steps

## MAKING YOUR DECISIONS

### Next Steps

- We will be in touch in the spring term to take you through the GCSE Pathway process. You do not need to contact the school at this stage.
- In the meantime there are some links below that you may find helpful.
- GCSE Options information from the BBC: click [here](#)
- Ebacc information: click [here](#)
- Russell Group University information: click [here](#)
- Post 18 Apprenticeships: click [here](#)

