



# HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Semper Fidelis - Always faithful

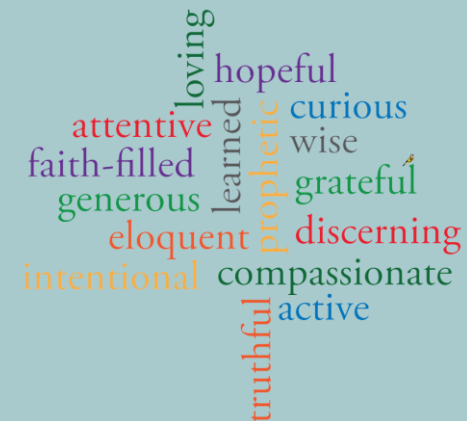


# Welcome to Year 9 Pathways Evening

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025

faith-filled & hopeful	<b>P</b> OSITIVE <b>O</b> RGANISED <b>W</b> ILLING <b>E</b> FFECTIVE <b>R</b> ESPECTFUL
attentive & discerning	
learned & wise	
grateful & generous	
eloquent & truthful	
curious & active	
compassionate & loving	

“Called as God’s family; we strive to achieve our personal best by living and learning in Christ”



# Let us Pray

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,  
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

**St Nicholas Owen make this school a safe refuge.**

**Inspire in us a love of God and a love of our neighbour.**

**Guide us in our work and play that we may always be  
faithful to Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen**

# Format for the Evening

- The KS4 Curriculum
- Curriculum Choices
- Option Subject Presentations

**DATES  
FOR YOUR  
DIARY**

Year 9 Spring Report - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Year 9 Parents Evening - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Deadline to submit options - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025



**EMMAUS**  
CATHOLIC MAC  
Our journey with Christ  
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**HAGLEY CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
SEMPER FIDELIS

# **GCSE Pathways Booklet 2025**



# Grades at GCSEs & Level 2 Applied Subjects



## New GCSE grading structure

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

L2 Applied Grades	GCSE Equivalent Grade
Level 2 Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 Distinction	7
Level 2 Merit	5.5
Level 2 Pass	4
Level 1 Distinction	3
Level 1 Merit	2
Level 1 Pass	1

# The KS4 Curriculum

All students will study the **CORE** curriculum:

- GCSE English Language & GCSE Literature (*Double Weighted*)
- GCSE Mathematics (*Double Weighted*)
- GCSE Combined Science Double Award
- GCSE Religious Education
- Core Physical Education
- Character, Culture and Formation (PSHE, RSE, Careers, Citizenship)

The next thing to consider is which courses are best suited to you

**GCSE Courses** – ‘Traditional’ courses which include a mix of theoretical study, investigative and practical work. Courses usually assessed with a combination of controlled assessments (Art, Product Design, Computer Science) and terminal written examinations in Year 11.

**L2 Vocational/applied Courses** – More applied/work related in content which develop practical skills and knowledge. Courses assessed through observational practical work and the creation of portfolio evidence but also now include exams (these are not terminal and can often be re-sat).

## Character, Culture and Formation Curriculum (PSHE, RSE, Careers, Citizenship)

- Personal, social & health education
- Relationships & sex education through the TEN TEN Education Programme
- Careers Education
- Wellbeing and mental health
- Citizenship and British values
- Assemblies and Collective Worship
- D.E.A.R

# EBACC - Language Plus Pathway

- ❖ Academic Pathway NOT a qualification or certification in its own right (Ebacc)
  - ❖ A pathway that ensures the broadest curriculum offer
  - ❖ Students who are on this pathway will study English, Maths, Science, and must opt for History or Geography and the Language they began studying at the began of Year 9, plus one other option.
  - ❖ Schools have to report on their success with students following the Ebacc
- 
- ❖ **Department for Education and the New Education Inspection Framework expects that 90% of all students complete this pathway by 2025**

# Education to 18 and beyond

- Compulsory for all children to remain in education in some shape or form until 18 years of age
- Advantages for students at HCHS is that post 16 provision exists for all here.
- Options choices for KS4 will be influenced by future thoughts, dreams and aspirations for post-16 and post-18 education, apprenticeships and careers.
- Knowing what's available now can help to guide those choices.



# Pathways to Post 16 study and beyond

- You can effectively study any A Level except languages and Computing without having studied the subject at GCSE
  - Look for subjects where you can develop your strengths
  - Look for subjects where it allows you to develop transferable skills
- 
- 3 A Levels: **Allows progression on to university or higher-level degree apprenticeships**
  - *Applied Pathway (Here at Hagley): A Levels and Work Experience*
  - Vocational Courses: **Technical courses/ Vocational courses offered at College, usually in one specific area**
  - Apprenticeships: **Level 2/3 – based in the workplace; released for college study**

## Key Stage 4 success that leads to Post 16 opportunity:

- Consistent, **independent** study habits including up to 1 hour 30 minutes per night of homework or self-directed study
- Asking for help when unsure and being organised – folders, planners, stationery,
- Curiosity for learning, a drive to succeed and grit and determination
- Exploring different career opportunities and being open towards Apprenticeships
- Ensure you are able to compete with all other students nationally, locally for Apprenticeships, College, University



**EMMAUS  
CATHOLIC MAC**  
Our journey with Christ  
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**HAGLEY CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
SEMPER FIDELIS

# GCSE Pathways Booklet 2025

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## Art and Design

**Why Choose Art and Design?**  
This course provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in Art and Design in ways that are personally relevant and truly developmental in nature.

**GCSE Art and Design will encourage every student to:**

- Actively engage in the process of art and design in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- Develop creative skills through learning to use imaginative and intuitive powers when exploring and creating images and artefacts that are original and of value. Becoming confident in taking risks and learning from their mistakes when exploring and experimenting with ideas, materials, tools and techniques.
- Develop personal attributes, including self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, self-discipline and commitment.

Students must evidence coverage of the assessment objectives in the Portfolio of Work and their response to the Externally Set Assignment.

**Portfolio Requirements for Art and Design (60%)**  
**Externally Set Assignment Requirements for Art and Design (40%)**

**GCSE Art and Design:**  
Students are able to work in a wide range of materials and techniques which may include:

- Fine art:** for example, drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, lens-/light-based media, photography and the moving image, printmaking, mixed media and land art.
- Photography:** for example, portraiture, location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photo-journalism, moving image: film, video and animation, fashion photography.

Students will begin the course with a series of workshops in which they will develop skills through many of the areas of study. They may explore and develop ideas by combining or overlapping these areas of study and they may work in both 2D and 3D.

## GCSE Computer Science

Computer Science is a core component of the EBacc, putting it alongside traditional sciences by recognising the high standards of intellectual depth and practical value of this qualification. This course enables students to learn the science behind computing and programming skills which high-tech industries need. Many high-tech companies originated as small start-ups founded by Computer Scientists e.g. Microsoft, Facebook, Google and Apple.

It is important to note that Computer Science can be very challenging at times due to the nature of the programming, maths and theoretical concepts involved. Therefore, **students will need to have a PPG of a grade 4a,4b or 4c in Maths in the Year 9 spring reports in order to access the course.**

**What is the difference between IT and Computer Science?**

Consider a car. Most people want to learn to drive; you do not need to know how the car works, but you just want to get from A to B. It is just that, it develops a skill set so you can "drive" your computer. You do not care how it works as long as it helps you write a report or do the accounts. However, some people want to know how it works. Just like car mechanics and engineers, they want to get under the bonnet and understand the basic principles. They might design better cars and invent new technologies for greener engines etc. This is the equivalent to studying Computer Science, getting underneath the computer, learning how it actually works.

**Why Choose GCSE Computer Science?**

The course will give students an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on "behind the scenes". As part of this, students will investigate computer programming in the Python language, which students will find enjoyable, if sometimes difficult. The course will help students develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills.

**Unit 1: Computer systems**  
**Written Examination (50%) 1hour 30minutes**

Students will learn about the hardware involved in making the computer work, the functions of operating system software, binary and hexadecimal number systems, communications and networking, as well as the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology. There is a small amount of mathematical content in the exam.

**Unit 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming**  
**Written Examination (50%) 1hour 30minutes**

Students will learn about algorithms, how to create them and turn them into working programming projects through the learning of programming techniques using the Python programming language. There is a large amount of computer programming which will be in the final exam.




# Option Choices Curriculum

## GCSE Courses

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE French
- GCSE Spanish
- **GCSE Triple Science \***
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Art
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
- GCSE Product Design
- **GCSE Business Studies**
- **GCSE Music**

## Vocational Courses

- Cambridge Technical Level 2 Certificate in Health & Social Care
- Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate in Creative iMedia
- BTEC Level 2 Technical Award in Performing Arts



**\* Must be predicted a 4a in Maths and a 4a in all three Sciences in the Y9 Spring report**

# Option Pathways

Core Curriculum		Options Subjects - You will study 3 Option Subjects		
You will study 6 GCSEs, as well as supporting courses		Block A Language or Humanity	Block B Humanity or Open Choice	Block C Open Choice
<b>GCSE Courses:</b> Religious Education English (Language and Literature) Mathematics Combined Science	Language Plus Pathway	<b>Y9 Groups (9F1L, 9S1L, 9F1R, 9S1R)</b> French Spanish	<b>Y9 Groups (9F1L, 9S1L, 9F1R, 9S1R)</b> Geography History	Art Computer Science Creative iMedia Food and Nutrition Design Technology Music PE
	Open Pathway	<b>Y9 Groups (9F2L, 9S2R, 9S2L)</b> French Spanish Geography History	<b>Y9 Groups (9F2L, 9S2R, 9S2L)</b> Art Health & Social Care PE	Performing Arts Business Studies Triple Science*
<b>Non-examined courses:</b> Core Physical Education Character and Culture				

## Making informed choices - Do's & Don'ts

- Take time and make a considered decision based on guidance from school and home
  - Read the option booklet closely and take every opportunity to speak with teachers and subject leaders
  - Choose subjects you enjoy and are currently successful in
  - Look at career and future study pathways and explore how your choices might impact on this.
- Do think carefully about the pathway for you and remember the English Baccalaureate Academic Pathway is a facilitator to some University entries.



### Don'ts

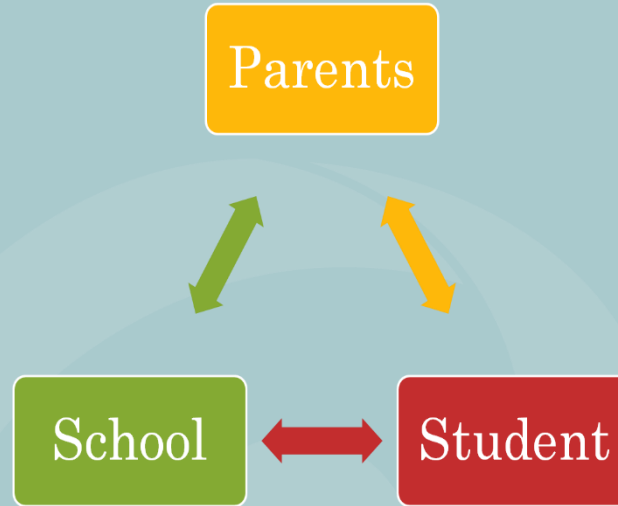
- Don't choose subjects based on friendship groups
- Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher
- Don't think there is an easy option, all Key Stage 4 subjects are challenging and require hard work, persistence and examination performance.
- Don't rush your decision, these are the courses you will follow for the next two years



# Partnership for Success

## Key factors in a student's success:

- Good Attendance
- Engagement and effort
- Homework
- Coursework/Controlled Assessment
- Meeting Deadlines
- Work-life Balance
- Healthy Lifestyle



## Who Can Help?

- Advice from: Subject Teachers, Heads of Year, Heads of Dept, Form Tutors & Parents/Carers.
- **School Careers Advisor**
- Options Booklet: there is an information sheet on every subject.
- The Internet: you can research lots about Careers & Qualifications on the Net.

## Pastoral Support

- First port of call if there is a problem is your Form Tutor or Head of Year.
- Mentoring and Guidance: Individual meetings where necessary/requested.
- Liaise with Tutors, Curriculum areas, Parents/Carers.

## Challenge and Information

- Target Setting: GCSE targets are set on a 5-year flightpath that challenge students to be in the top 5 nationally for progress
- Monitoring Progress: Data will be gathered and reported termly to monitor progress.
- Regular Progress Reviews, Parent/Carer Evenings.

Look at websites

[www.route14-19.co.uk](http://www.route14-19.co.uk)



# Completing your Option Form

- ***A link to the correct pathway will be emailed to the students' school email address by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025***
- *Select the subject that you would wish to study in each of the three blocks on your pathway*
- In block A (open) and B, please select one reserve choice. In block C, please select two reserve choices
- Press 'submit' which is at the bottom of the Microsoft Form

## Language Plus Pathway 2025

Please select your option choices in each block on your pathway. Please also select a different reserve choice in each block.

1. Name of student?

Enter your answer

2. Which subject would you like to study in block A? (The language that you currently study must be chosen)

	First Choice
French	<input type="radio"/>
Spanish	<input type="radio"/>

## Completing your Option Form

4. Which subject would you like to study in block C?

	First Choice	Reserve
Art	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Computing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Design Technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Music	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performing Arts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Triple Science	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business Studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creative iMedia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Students will find out which subjects they will study in the summer term.

Last year, 96% of students were allocated to their first-choice options



# Option Subject Presentations

Session	Start Time	Finish Time
1	7:10pm	7:25pm
2	7:30pm	7:45pm
3	7:50pm	8:05pm

- Subject presentations will take place as outlined above.
- There will be opportunities for questions.
- Within these sessions each presentation will simply be reproduced, allowing you to design your own timetable for the evening.
- A buzzer will sound at the start of each session.
- At the end of session 3 the evening ends.

# Subject Presentation Venues

Subject	Venue	Teacher
Art and Design	H1	Mrs Stott
Business Studies	GG3	Mrs Mann
Computer Science and Creative iMedia	FG1	Mrs French
Design and Technology	FG6	Mr Button (session 1 and 3 only)
Food Preparation & Nutrition	FG6	Mr Button (session 2 only)
French and Spanish	FG4	Mrs Motaban
Geography	FG2	Mr Williams
Health and Social Care	FF1	Mrs Palmer
History	FG5	Mr Lavender
Music	C1	Mr Mallinson
Performing Arts	C3	Miss Mckee
Physical Education	Large Hall	Mr Rich
Triple Science	GG2	Mrs Fairclough

## Website Resources

A wide range of resources are available on our website.

Click on 'Our Community' then 'Year 9 Pathways'

- Subject Videos
- Interactive Pathways booklet
- Detailed guidance on how subject choices can be made



**Thank you**

**Enjoy the evening and have a  
safe journey home**

**SLT and Ms Devine will be in  
reception for any queries**

**Year 9 Spring Report - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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