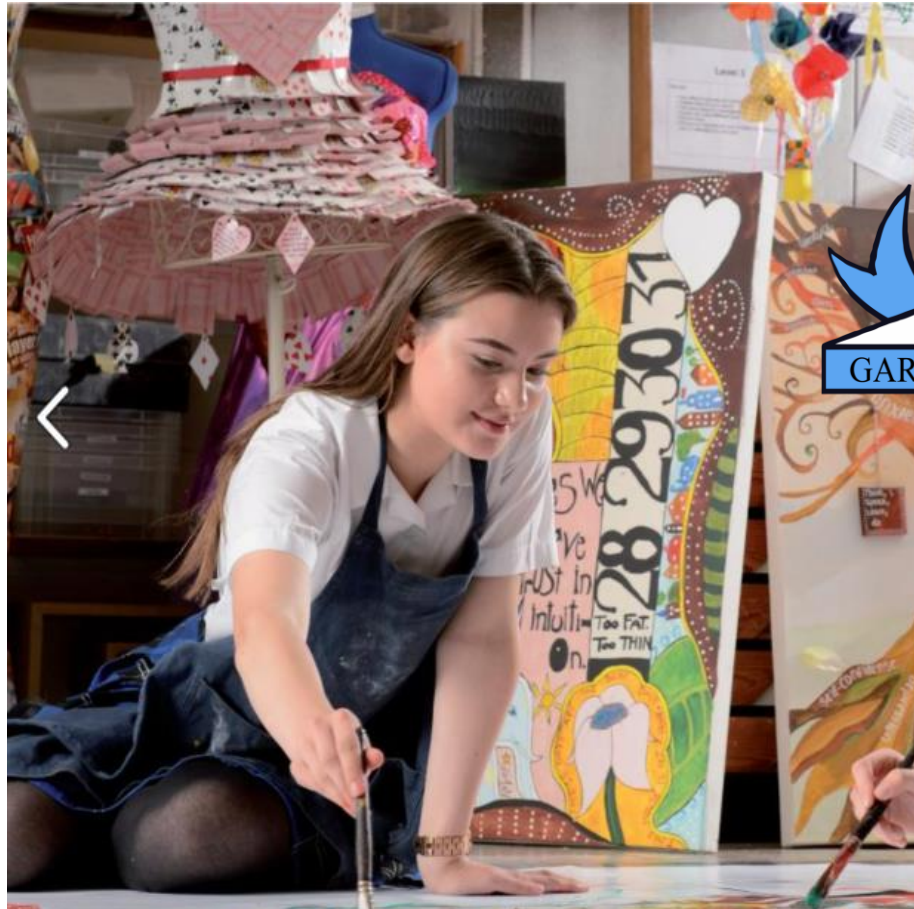


# Curriculum Information

## 2021-2024

### YEAR 8



All students in year 8 will start Key Stage 4 in September 2021.

## Why?

This will give our students three years of Key Stage 4 teaching. This will allow a 'knowledge based' curriculum to be delivered successfully within an adequate timeframe therefore improving student outcomes.





# Compulsory Subjects



English 5 lessons

Mathematics 5 lessons

Science 6 lessons

Games 2 lessons

PSHE 1 lesson

*RE, citizenship, sex education, work related learning, drugs education and personal health and well-being.*



No matter which pathway students choose in the future, Maths, English and Science qualifications will always be an essential requirement. Therefore, we are increasing the key stage 4 curriculum time for each of these subjects.

# Other Subject

Art and Design GCSE

Business GCSE

Child Development Cambridge National Award

Computer Science GCSE

Food and Nutrition GCSE

French GCSE

Geography GCSE

History GCSE

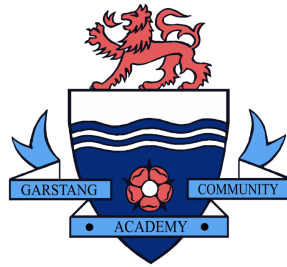
iMedia Cambridge National Award

PE GCSE

Performing Arts BTEC Technical Award

Resistant Materials GCSE

Sports Studies Cambridge National Award



**Students will be able to select three other subjects to study at key stage 4 within some guided parameters to ensure they are studying a broad and balanced curriculum that reflects their academic ability and doesn't narrow their future pathways.**



# The EBacc

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.



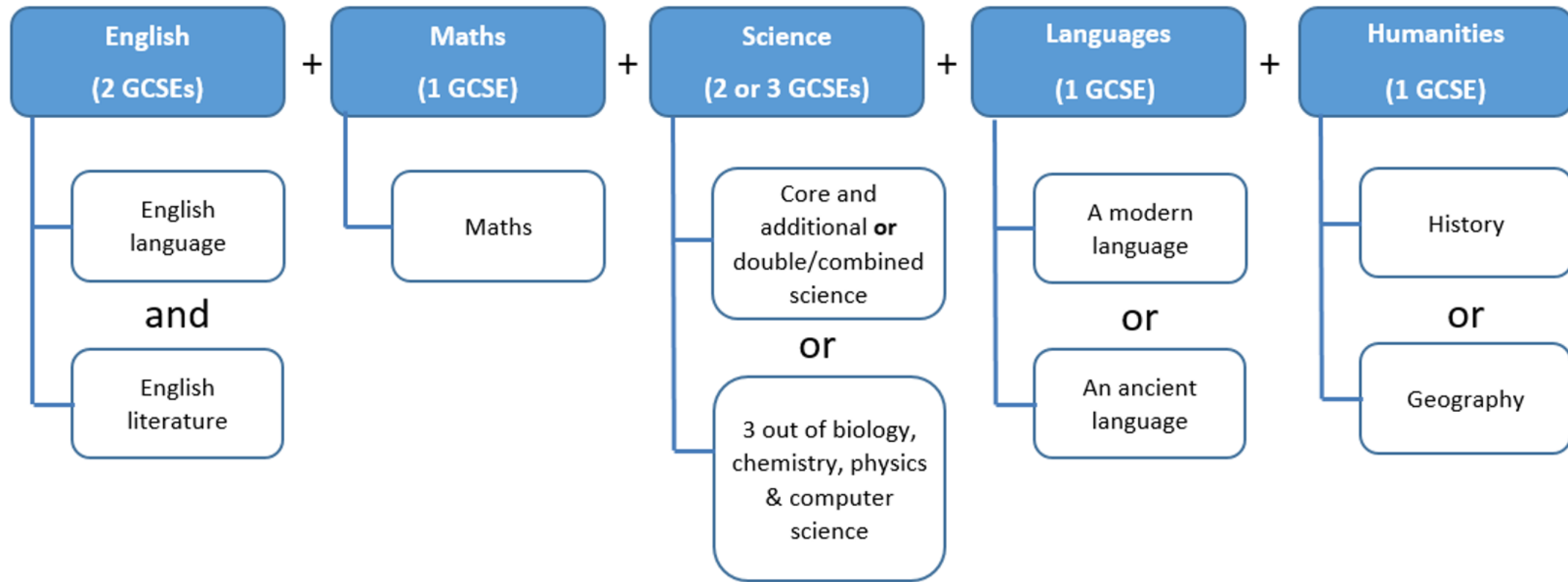
In order to have the EBacc qualification at the end of your GCSEs, you **MUST** study French and Geography or History.

# The EBacc



## Definition of the English Baccalaureate – from the DfE July 2017

‘The EBacc comprises the core academic subjects that the **vast majority** of young people should have the opportunity to study to age 16. To enter the EBacc, pupils must take up to eight GCSEs across five subject ‘pillars’.





# The EBacc

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc is a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people. While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

*"We want to see more children benefitting from an academic curriculum that keeps their options open for future study. **Studying the EBacc should become the expectation for the vast majority of pupils.**"*

*(Department for Education January 2019).*



# The EBacc

How important is the English Baccalaureate in a university application?



*The EBacc is endorsed by the Russell Group Universities.*





# The EBacc

## How important is the English Baccalaureate for future careers?

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce



# What are BTECs and Cambridge National Qualifications?

These technical and vocational qualifications are designed to be taught alongside GCSEs. **Each qualification has GCSE equivalence e.g. a BTEC Level 2 Distinction is the equivalent to a GCSE grade 7.** Students are assessed internally throughout the course with approximately a third of the course (depending on the specific qualification) being externally assessed.



# BTECs

The focus is on building skills to show aptitude and improving understanding of progression options so that **learners who achieve one or more of the qualifications are equipped to go on to become work ready for an occupation post-16.** (Pearson: BTEC provider 2017)

## Performing Arts BTEC Technical Award





# Cambridge National Awards



## Sports Studies



These sport qualifications offer learners the chance to develop different types of skills through largely practical means; communication, problem solving, team working, evaluation and analysis, performing under pressure, and formulating written findings from practical investigation.

**\*Please speak to Miss Rainbow or Mr Kidd for advice on which PE course to select.**

## Creative iMedia

This course focuses on an in-depth study of how ICT is used in the media sector – including in film, television, web development, gaming and animation. Pupils will acquire knowledge in topics ranging from pre-production skills to digital animation, and will take a practical approach to their application.



## Child Development

This course covers all aspects of **child development** and parental responsibility, from conception to five years. Students **develop** the essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to create the best conditions for a **child's development** and well-being.



# Year 8 Curriculum Information Booklet 2021-2024

Specific information regarding all GCSE and technical and vocational courses can be found in the Year 8 Curriculum Information Booklet. This can be accessed via the school website.

Please take your time to read through the information with your daughter/son before completing the 'curriculum choices' form on the back page.





## Completing the 'Curriculum Preferences' Form

A 'Curriculum Preferences' form will be sent to you. Students will also receive a paper copy of this form in school.

All students must indicate the three subjects that they would most like to study at key stage 4 on the form. We will do our best to ensure that the majority of students are able to study all of their preferences however, there will be a small minority of subject combinations that we are unable to timetable. Additionally, some courses could be oversubscribed.

**Please remember when completing the form:**

- **To achieve the 'EBacc' qualification you MUST choose French and Geography or History.**
- **Students must have a broad and balanced curriculum which is appropriate to their academic ability. Students wishing to follow an academic route shouldn't select more than one technical or vocational course. No student should select more than two technical or vocational courses (bold print below).**
- **Due to dis-counting codes students cannot choose both GCSE PE and the Sports Studies Cambridge Award.**

**There will be an opportunity for students who have SEND provision to access an extra literacy and numeracy lesson each week as part of their 'options' timetable while still attaining 8 GCSE or equivalent qualifications.**



The deadline for returning the completed the 'Curriculum Preferences' form to school is **Wednesday 9th June 2021.**



*Forms must be signed by parents. Forms will be collected in by form tutors.*

*If you have any questions please contact:*  
[Info@garstangcommunityacademy.com](mailto:Info@garstangcommunityacademy.com)  
[Gfelvus@garstangcommunityacademy.com](mailto:Gfelvus@garstangcommunityacademy.com)

