



# Holy Family Catholic High School

Virgin's Lane, Thornton, Liverpool L23 4UL.  
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Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Friday, March 14, 2025

Dear Parent

## **Year 9 Options Information Evening, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 @ 6.00 p.m. (School Hall)**

This is the term that your child will make their Key Stage 4 option choices. On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00 p.m. in the School Hall, we are hosting an 'Options Information Evening' about the processes and timeline for choosing their options. All parents are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend we will make the presentation and options booklet available to you on the school's website.

We recognise that making decisions about what subjects to study in Year 10 and thinking about future career choices may seem daunting. What is most important is that all students select subjects that best suit their needs and aspirations. With this in mind there are a number of events taking place this term to help support you and your child in making these decisions:

The key dates are as follows:

### **Year 9 Options Evening -Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Start time - 6.00 p.m.**

This will be an opportunity for parents to hear about the options process and to explain the pathways students can follow, along with guidance on how to choose. This will be held in the school hall.

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Assemblies are being held to inform our children of the options available and the process/timeline. In these assemblies all subjects will talk about their subject content in Years 10 & 11, and how they are examined.

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Year 9 Parent's Evening on the School Cloud**

This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers and for them to answer any questions you may have about options.

### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Deadline for options to be submitted online.

### **Additional Support**

**Options booklet** – a booklet will be available for students and parents which provides information about the subjects they can study and the options process. This will also be made available via our website.

**Student Interviews** - Student interviews will take place this term, giving students the opportunity to discuss the most appropriate pathway and subjects for them. Parents can also request a meeting with staff if they would like more support during the process.

## Options and Pathways

All our students study the following:

- English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
- RE (1 GCSE)
- Core PE (not examined)
- Personal Development (not examined)
- 3 option subjects

They then have to choose a 'pathway'.

| Pathway 1 - Ebacc (3 options)             | Pathway 2 - Non-Ebacc (3 options)   |
|---|---|
| 1. One from (Geography, History)          | 1. One from (Geography, History, Computer Science, Separate Science, French, Spanish) |
| 2. One MFL (French or Spanish)            | 2. Any subject from the table below.  |
| 3. Any other subject from the list below. | 3. Any subject from the table below.  |

### Ebacc Pathway

You may be aware that there is a national expectation that a certain percentage of students should follow an Ebacc pathway. To achieve the Ebacc, students must to take a Humanity subject (Geography or History) and a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish). Some children may be encouraged to consider an Ebacc pathway.

### Option subjects

|                      |                       |                    |                          |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| French               | Spanish               | Geography          | History                  |
| Computer Science     | Engineering*          | Separate Science   | Food & Nutrition Science |
| Dance                | Art                   | Music*             | Drama                    |
| Business Enterprise* | Health & Social Care* | PE/Sports Studies* | IT*                      |
| ASDAN                | NCFE                  |                    |                          |

\*Applied subjects (combination of exams and coursework)

Some of our students will follow a more bespoke curriculum and we will contact their families in person to arrange a meeting to discuss this further.

I hope this information is helpful in preparation for the options process and you will receive more information next week by email and at the presentation evening.

Yours sincerely

Mr Symes  
Headteacher

**Option Choices** (pick 3 options, one from each block 1, 2, 3, and 4. The option block you do not choose an option in, you must choose RE):

| Block 1          | Block 2                 | Block 3              | Block 4                  |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Spanish          | French                  | Music*               | Engineering*             |
| Geography        | Art                     | Drama                | Food & Nutrition Science |
| Separate Science | Computer Science        | PE / Sports*         | Health and Social Care*  |
| Dance            | Geography               | Business Enterprise* | Drama                    |
| IT*              | Business Enterprise*    | Geography            | Pe / Sport*              |
| RE               | Health and Social Care* | History              | Art                      |
| NCFE             | History                 | Spanish              | Business Enterprise*     |
|                  | ASDAN                   | RE                   | History                  |
|                  | RE                      |                      | RE                       |

**Reserve Choice** (pick 1 reserve option)

| Reserve Option       |                        |                     |                          |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| French               | Spanish                | Geography           | History                  |
| Computer Science     | Engineering*           | Separate Sciences   | Food & Nutrition Science |
| Dance                | Art                    | Music*              | Drama                    |
| Business Enterprise* | Health & Social Care * | PE/Sports Studies * | IT*                      |
| NCFE                 | ASDAN                  |                     |                          |

\*Applied subject (combination of exams and coursework)

**Pathways:**

| Subjects                          | Ebacc Pathway                  | Non Ebacc Pathway   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Mathematics                       | Y                              | Y   |
| English Language & Literature (2) | Y                              | Y   |
| Combined Science (2)              | Y                              | Y   |
| RE                                | Y                              | Y   |
| PE (Core)                         | Y                              | Y   |
| Personal Development              | Y                              | Y   |
| Option 1                          | One from: Geography or History | One from: Geography, History, Computer Science, Separate Science, French, Spanish |
| Option 2                          | French or Spanish              | Any option subject  |
| Option 3                          | Any option subject             | Any option subject  |