



# Holy Family Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Friday, March 03, 2023

Dear Parent

## **Year 9 Options Information Evening, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 @ 6.00 p.m. (School Hall)**

This is the term that your child will make their Key Stage 4 option choices (what they wish to study in Years 10 & 11). On Thursday 9<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:

### Timeline

The key dates are as follows:

- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</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.
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – during their Personal Development lesson, all Year 9 classes will look at what they should consider to help them make their option choices.
- **Year 9 Options Evening, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March @ 6.00 p.m. in the School Hall** – 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 led by members of the Senior Leadership Team who will also be available during the evening to answer any questions you may have.
- **Tuesday 14<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.
- 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 booklet – a booklet will be available for students and parents from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March which provides information about the subjects they can study and the options process. This will be made available via our website.
- **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March** – deadline for options to be submitted online.
- This deadline is to give us an idea on the number of classes needed and options requested, it helps us with our planning. Lots of children change their mind between now and September, and we always do our very best to make the changes happen for them.

## 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/PSCHE (not examined)
- 3 option subjects

### **Pathways:**

They then have to choose a 'pathway'.

Pathway 1 - Ebacc (3 options)	Pathway 2 - Non-Ebacc (3 options)
1. One Humanity (Geography or History)	1. One Humanity or MFL
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*

\*Applied subjects (combination of exams and coursework)

In previous years we have restricted the options to a limited number of subjects in each option block. This year, for the first time, we are offering our students a free choice and we are going to do our best to meet their requests. We are asking them to pick 1 from Option block 1, 2 and 3, and then pick a reserve option from the table at the bottom of this letter.

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 1 from Option 1, 2 and 3, and a reserve option):

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reserve
French	French	French	French
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	History
	Computer Science	Computer Science	Computer Science
	Engineering*	Engineering*	Engineering*
	Separate Sciences	Separate Sciences	Separate Sciences
	Food & Nutritional Science	Food & Nutritional Science	Food & Nutritional Science
	Dance	Dance	Dance
	Art & Design	Art & Design	Art & Design
	Music*	Music*	Music*
	Drama	Drama	Drama
	Business Enterprise*	Business Enterprise*	Business Enterprise*
	Health & Social Care *	Health & Social Care *	Health & Social Care *
	PE/Sports Studies *	PE/Sports Studies *	PE/Sports Studies *
	IT*	IT*	IT*

\*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/PSCHE	Y	Y
Option 1	French or Spanish	One from: French, Spanish, Geography or History
Option 2	History or Geography	Any option subject
Option 3	Any option subject	Any option subject