



Year 9: GCSE Curriculum and options evening

Contents

- The new GCSEs
- New GCSE grading structure
- The Options timeline
- The GCSE curriculum at SRRCC
- The Ebacc & Separate Sciences
- 'Attainment 8'
- Making choices
- Post-16
- GCSE ready

The new GCSEs

- The New GCSEs, graded 1-9 began September 2015 in English and Maths. All other subjects began in September 2016.
- Linear with fewer subjects containing coursework, this means more exams at the end of year 11
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar (the quality of written communication) is assessed in geography and history, and to a greater extent in English
- Grade 5 is considered a 'good' pass. In terms of difficulty this is the equivalent of the top two thirds of Grade C and the bottom third of Grade B. So you need to be a high performing 'C' grade to attain it
- Overall many subjects have increased 'rigour' in their content and assessment
- There will be greater discrimination at the top with a projected 4% of grades at grade 9.



New GCSE Grading Structure

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	D
1	E
	F
	G
U	U



New GCSE Grading Structure

Otqual

Pupils have just over 7 terms left at school before GCSE exams.

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

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

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

How many sub-grades progress are you making in a term?

What is your trajectory?



Is it enough to reach the grades you want at GCSE?

What grade are you on now?



Understanding your grades:



Secure Grade 1,
close to moving to
Grade 2



Secure Grade 1



Insecure Grade 1

KS3 Minimum expected progress is 2 sub-grades per year, KS4 is 3 sub-grades per year.

Most pupils should be aiming to make at least 1 sub-grade of progress per term.



The options timeline

Ongoing:
Speak to your
teachers and
parents if you
have questions

Oct-Jan:
Series of
assemblies
from subject
leaders

One to one
meeting for
each
Student
from
January
2017

March – June:
timetable is
constructed
around
student
choices

July 2017,
confirmation
of GCSE
courses to be
studied

2 Dec: GCSE
Subject
information
booklet
issued

**7 Dec:
GCSE
curriculum
and options
evening**

Parents
evening
25
January
2017

Options
deadline
Friday 10
February
2017

**GCSE
courses
start in
September
2017!**

- However, much of what you learn in year 9 will help you to succeed at GCSE – all subjects are studied until the end of year 9



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



➤ Compulsory subjects:

- Religious Studies
- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science: Combined Trilogy (two GCSEs)

➤ Compulsory non-examined

- Physical Education
- PSHE days

➤ Alternative Curriculum

- Early entry languages (fluent speakers)
- Further Maths (bridge to A level, by invitation)
- Vocational curriculum (by invitation)
- Additional English & Maths (by invitation)

➤ Optional subjects:

- Art & Design
- DT: Food Technology
- DT: Product Design
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Science: Triple (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Spanish

You may choose 4 optional subjects to complement your compulsory GCSE curriculum.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)



- The EBacc is a stand alone qualification, awarded for attaining a grade 5 or higher in the following subjects:
- Mathematics
- English
- Science (Combined)
- Geography or History
- A Modern or Classical Language
- These are a core breadth of academic subjects which sixth forms, colleges, universities and employers will look for
- To be eligible for the EBacc you must choose Geography or History and a Language for your optional curriculum.



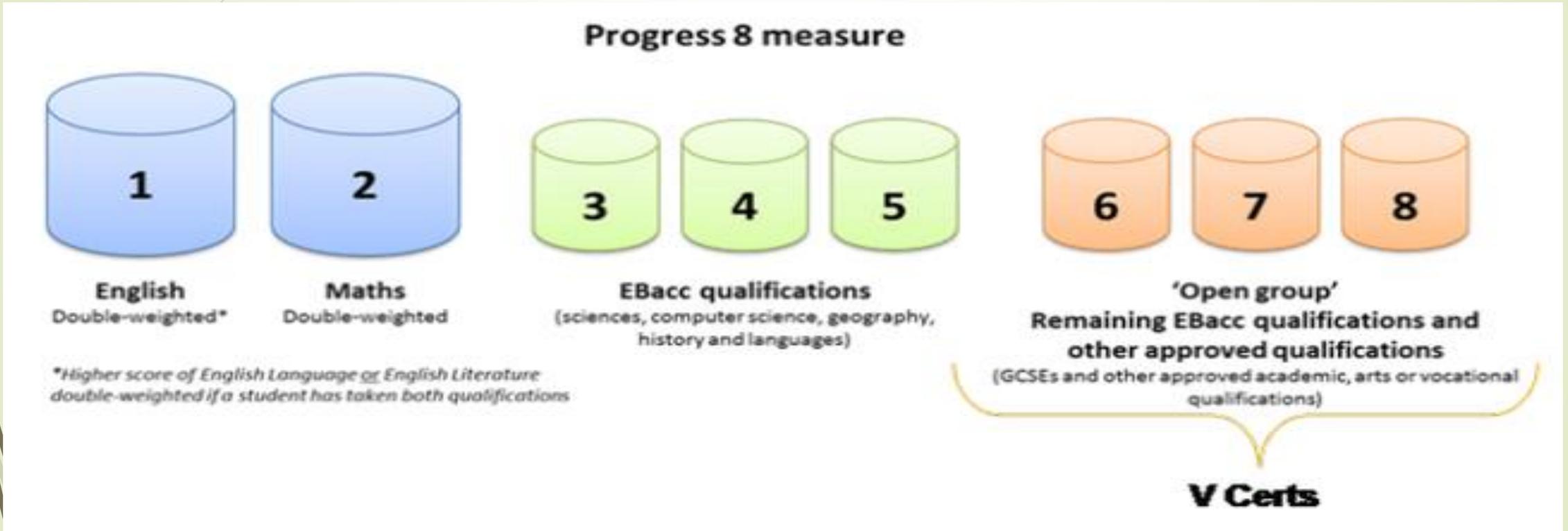
Separate Science



- All pupils study Science combined trilogy (two GCSEs)
- Separate Science is an option and would use up one of your four choices
- It enables you to receive a separate GCSE grade in Biology, Chemistry & Physics.
- You will have additional Science lessons
- This option is well suited to anyone who is considering Science A levels, but you will have to work hard to achieve the top grades.
- You need to be 'on track' to receive a **grade 4** at the end of Y9 to be eligible

English and Maths & 'attainment 8'

- Your ability to progress after year 11 will be severely hindered if you do not achieve a good pass (Grade 5) or higher in English and Maths.



You will receive an 'average grade' from your best 8 GCSE results that fit into the pots above. If you are missing a qualification from one pot you get '0' bringing down your average grade.



How pupils should make their choices

- Use your progress trackers in your books – how are you doing? What grade are you on? How much progress are you making?
- Check grade sheet carefully...
- If there are subjects you know you want to take but are worried about your grade – ask your teacher what you could be doing to improve it.... Be proactive
- **Do choose subjects you enjoy**
- **Do choose subjects you are good at**
- **Do choose subjects you think will help you in the future or that you might choose to study at A level**
- **Do choose subjects that give you a broad GCSE curriculum**
- Don't choose subjects because your friends are
- Don't choose subjects based on teachers you might have
- Don't choose too many subjects that have lots of coursework (controlled assessment) – you might get snowed under



What do you need to get into colleges and sixth forms?



- **St Richard Reynolds Catholic College VI form opens in September 2018 – housed in a brand new purpose built building.**

Most sixth forms and colleges will require English & Maths at Grade 5 or above, many will ask for Grade 6 or above to get on to their courses.

You might be asked for a good pass in a subject you have taken that you want to continue to A level.

A demonstrable commitment to your studies, good record of attendance and punctuality and evidence of involvement in extra-curricular life in and out of school.



GCSE ready...

- Year 9 is an important year. We need to develop our learning habits now so that we are GCSE ready
 - Maturity & Self-motivation
 - Challenging yourself in lessons and making the most of every learning opportunity
 - Know where you are (assessment tracker & gradesheet) where you want to be (end of year target & GCSE aim) and whether you are making enough progress
 - Having an aim for the GCSEs and the next step
 - Involvement in extra-curricular – start building your CV and become ‘well-rounded’

- What you can do to support
 - Encourage to read daily to broaden vocabulary and improve spelling
 - Encourage to write formally to build essential skills for applications
 - Take an active interest in relevant news and documentaries
 - Encourage resilience and not giving up
 - Check they understand *how* to improve and if not to seek advice
 - Encourage them to take part in extra-curricular opportunities offered