



the
LatimerArts
College

KS4 Pathways 2017 Information

Routes to Success

At The Latimer Arts College we provide every student with a basic core curriculum, which includes English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Cultural Studies.

To enhance this core, students are then guided down pathways which will provide them with the best opportunity to secure outstanding individual achievement. They will complete their personalised curriculum by expressing preferences for five additional subjects that they wish to study. This will result in them securing 10 Level 2 qualifications in total.

The guided pathways are:

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Pathway

The **EBacc** is made up of 5 GCSE qualifications including English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject. Some of the top universities often now insist on GCSEs in the academic subjects within the EBacc (known as “facilitating” subjects) as an essential entry requirement.

For those students who have been identified as having the highest academic ability this route is recommended.

Academic Pathway

Not all students will gain success in **all** EBacc subjects and this pathway provides the opportunity to follow a strong academic pathway, selecting some EBacc subjects, without the requirement to express a preference for them all.

Expressing Preferences

We have been monitoring each student’s progress during their time at Latimer and this has enabled us to make an informed professional judgement as to which pathway is most suited to them. Whilst we strongly recommend a pathway, it is possible for each student to access the EBacc and Academic pathways through their subject preferences.

Please note that students are expressing a preference and no guarantees are made at this time. The College will do its best to provide each student with their preferred subjects. However, should courses be oversubscribed a **lottery** system will be used to select students for the available places. Should a course be undersubscribed, it may not run.

Students and their parents/carers should consider these preference choices carefully. Once a student has expressed their preferences, every effort is made to enable them to study the courses that they would like to. **Preference choices cannot be altered once they have been confirmed.**

Completed preference forms need to be returned to each student’s form tutor by **Friday 19th May**. All students will receive confirmation of their places later on in the school year.

Preference Columns

The structure of the Year 9 Curriculum is shown below:

Core Column	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
GCSE Mathematics GCSE Double Science GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature Core PE Cultural Studies	GCSE Geography GCSE History	Technical Award Materials Technology (Product Design) Technical Award Visual Communications (Graphics) Technical Award Textiles GCSE Food and Nutrition GCSE Drama GCSE Computer Science*	GCSE Music GCSE French GCSE Art BTEC Media GCSE Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE Triple Science* BTEC Sport/GCSE PE BTEC Business GCSE Psychology	BTEC Sport/GCSE PE BTEC ICT GCSE Dance GCSE French BTEC Travel and Tourism

EBacc students express a preference from each of the columns A-E and must select a Humanities subject (Geography or History) and French.

Academic students express a preference from each of the columns A-E and must select a Humanities subject (Geography or History) or French.

*Triple Science and Computer Science (shown in red in the columns) are recommended for a select number of students due to their demanding academic content. During the pathways fortnight students will receive a letter inviting them to study these subjects from the relevant Progress Leaders if it is recommended that they study them.

Some Key Terms

GCSE: These courses are assessed by terminal examinations which occur at the end of the two year course. A few subjects still contain an element of controlled assessment which is completed in class and contributes to the final grade. Details for each course can be found in the subject pages.

BTEC and Technical Qualifications: These courses may be taken as an alternative to GCSEs in some subjects. The learning is more “hands on” than at GCSE and the qualifications are largely assessed by portfolio work completed throughout the course, with a small external examination element. They are equivalent to GCSE qualifications.

GCSE Reforms

From September 2015 the Government has been implementing a rolling programme of new GCSEs that will be taught in all schools and colleges across England. From September 2017, all GCSEs will be reformed and their key features are:

- A new grading scale of 9 to 1 will be used, with 9 being the top grade. This will help distinguish the new GCSEs from previous versions.
- Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- There will be new, more demanding content, which has been developed by the government and the exam boards.
- Courses will be designed for two years of study – they will no longer be divided into different modules and students will take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.
- The majority of subjects will be assessed by one type of exam, rather than being split into 'foundation tier' and 'higher tier'. The only exceptions will be GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Science and GCSE French. These qualifications will retain tiered examinations.

Subject Specific information can be found online at:

<http://www.latimer.org.uk/page/?title=Key+Stage+4+Pathways&pid=285>

Scanning the following QR code will take you directly to these pages:

