



the  
**LatimerArts**  
College

# **KS4 Pathways 2019 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.

Students 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.

**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.**

## The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The **EBacc** is made up of 5 GCSE qualifications including English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language (French) and a Humanities subject (Geography or History).

We strongly recommend this pathway for most students. 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.

Students wishing to take this pathway **must** choose French as a preference.

*Completed preference forms need to be returned to the box in Student Services reception by **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March.***

*All students will receive confirmation of their places later on in the school year.*

# Preference Columns

| Core Column:            | Preference 1:  | Preference 2:                        | Preference 3: | Preference 4:              | Preference 5:            |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| GCSE Mathematics        | GCSE Geography | <b><i>GCSE Computer Science*</i></b> | GCSE Music    | GCSE Triple Science        | GCSE Dance               |
| GCSE Science Trilogy    | GCSE History   | GCSE Drama                           | GCSE French   | GCSE Philosophy and Ethics | GCSE French              |
| GCSE English Language   |                | GCSE Philosophy and Ethics           | GCSE Art      | GCSE Geography             | GCSE PE                  |
| GCSE English Literature |                | GCSE Psychology                      | GCSE Textiles | BTEC Sport                 | BTEC Digital Information |
| Core PE                 |                | GCSE Design & Technology             | BTEC Media    | BTEC Business              | BTEC Business            |
| Cultural Studies        |                | GCSE Food and Nutrition              |               | BTEC Media                 | BTEC Travel and Tourism  |

To meet the requirements of the **EBacc pathways**, students should express a preference from each of the columns and **must** select French in one column.

\*Computer Science (***shown in bold and italics***) is only recommended for a select number of students due to the demanding academic content. During the pathways fortnight these students will receive a letter inviting them to study Computer Science from the Progress Leader.

## **Some Key Terms**

**GCSE:** These courses are assessed by terminal examinations which occur at the end of the three-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:** These courses are technical qualifications. The learning is more “hands on” than at GCSE and the qualifications are largely assessed by portfolio work completed throughout the course, with a smaller external examination element. They are equivalent to GCSE qualifications.

# Next steps

Below is an outline of the support, information and guidance Year 8 students will receive during the Pathways process and beyond.

| Event   | When  | Purpose  |
|---|---|--|
| Extended Pathways Assembly                      | Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January during lesson time      | To explain the pathways process to students  |
| Key Stage 4 Master Class lessons                | Over the fortnight from Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January | For students to experience Key Stage 4 lessons (all GCSE and BTEC courses)   |
| Pathways Evening                                | Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February, 6-8pm                 | To explain the pathways process to parents and students; opportunity for parents and students to speak to GCSE and BTEC teachers |
| Year 8 Student and Parent Review Evening (SPRE) | Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February, 5.30-8.30pm          | To discuss students' progress. An opportunity to have final discussions about pathway choices                                    |

***Deadline for Year 8s to hand in their subject preference forms – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March***

## GCSE Reforms

From September 2015 the Government implemented a rolling programme of new GCSEs to be taught in all schools and colleges across England. In September 2018 GCSEs were further reformed and their key features are now as follows:

- 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.
- 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 on the college website by clicking [here](#)**

or by going to [www.latimer.org.uk](http://www.latimer.org.uk) and checking out the "Key Stage 4 Pathways" information under the "Curriculum" section of the website

These are the relevant documents:

- Key Stage 4 2019-2022 Learning Routes
- Key Stage 4 2019-2022 Curriculum Subjects