

Year 9

EBacc Options 2021



Dear Year 9 Student

Following on from today's assembly we are launching our EBacc confirmation programme. When choosing your EBacc subjects for the next two years it is very important that you achieve the right balance. For those of you wishing to go on to higher education and study at University we strongly advise that you continue with a full EBacc selection of subjects including a language, in this case French. Your Form Tutor, Miss Wilding and your subject teachers will be able to help you with advice.

At this stage, it is very unlikely that you are sure about the exact job or career you wish to follow. Indeed, it is quite possible that you will have a number of different jobs during your lifetime, and that some of these jobs will not even have been invented yet! It is important that you choose a broad range of subjects to ensure that you have the greatest number of career opportunities open to you. The following link gives students and parents EBacc advice and guidance to help you make informed decisions: [DfE EBacc Leaflet.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) . During secondary school education it is vital that you keep as many educational pathways open as possible. Gaining the EBacc combination of subjects at GCSE will ensure that you are more likely to be successful in education post 16.

All students are required to take GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science (Combined Science (Double Award) or Separate Sciences). At this stage we are asking you to start thinking about answers to the following two questions:

- Which of the following two subjects do you want to continue with to GCSE; French, Geography or History. It is possible for you to continue with French, Geography and History but you will have to drop one of your creative option subjects at the start of year 10.
- Do you want to study Combined science (2 GCSE science qualifications) or Separate science (3 GCSE science qualifications)

In addition, all students will study CORE PE and PSHE/RP (these subjects do not have an examination). We are exploring whether it would be possible to offer students the opportunity to gain an additional qualification in GCSE Spanish by attending additional sessions after school. These would be delivered by the Spanish teachers at Hayle Academy with a mixture of remote and onsite sessions. Please note there is no guarantee we can offer this next year. There is an option to express their interest in this potential additional qualification in the Pre-EBacc survey. The top Universities in this Country, known as "Russell Group" Universities prefer students to have gained a strong pass (Grade 5 or above) in English (Literature or Language), Maths, Science, Humanities (Geography or History) and a Language. Achieving a pass in all of these is known as achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBACC) and we strongly recommend choosing this combination of subjects if you may wish to study at a Russell Group University in the future. Using the following link, we ask that you complete our pre-EBacc survey: <https://forms.gle/Yxy687w6NoLHZHCc7>

We are offering an opportunity for students to give feedback on their EBacc subjects in preparation for Year 10. At this stage we are asking students to give their preferred choices for subjects to be continued in Year 10 as per our curriculum policy. Please be aware that the subjects on offer in the survey may not all be available for your real choices and that we may not be able to provide a perfect match for every student: but will do our best. Following our pre-Year 10 EBacc survey we will begin a programme of events to support your choices and confirm which subjects will be available for you to choose to continue to study through to GCSE. This will include the opportunity of booking a telephone call with your French, Geography, History or Science teachers to discuss your preferred EBacc subject choices before we ask you to make a final decision. Useful dates are at the bottom of this letter.

Remember that colleges and employers will be looking for flexible, dedicated and adaptable young people. They do not expect you to be a trained specialist at the age of 16, but they will invest in someone who has proved that they can work hard to achieve their best. If parents/carers have any questions about options, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email is tcrawford@st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mr T Crawford
Assistant Headteacher

EBacc Programme:

- 22nd March Virtual Parents evening booking system opens
- 30th March Virtual Parents evening
- 30th March EBacc confirmation form opens
- 23rd April EBacc confirmation form deadline

SCIENCE GCSE

COURSE CONTENT

COMBINED SCIENCE

GCSE will enable the student to gain two GCSE qualifications in Science, the specification will cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

SEPARATE SCIENCE

GCSEs will enable the student to gain an independent GCSE qualification in Biology, Chemistry and Physics leading to the student being awarded three GCSE grades. The separate Science option is studied in the same curriculum time as the Science GCSE so it is recommended that only keen scientists or high attaining students should be considered this pathway. In year 9 all students have studied the same curriculum. Choosing Separate science will mean that students cover 30% more curriculum content and be expected to complete more tasks independently and through home learning.

LOOKING AHEAD

Grade 6 in Science either from Combined Science or Separate Science, will allow students to progress to A level.

A pass in Science either from Combined Science or Separate Science will allow students to progress to Level 3 studies at college.

Advanced skills in Science are needed for a surprisingly varied number of careers ranging from environmental sciences and sports science to the more obvious professions such as medicine, veterinary science and engineering.

FRENCH GCSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will develop the necessary language skills to communicate in a variety of everyday situations when abroad. They will develop a sound grammatical knowledge of the language enabling further study. The course will cover the following themes: identity and culture, education and employment, and local, national and global areas of interest.

ASSESSMENT

There are four examinations: reading, listening, writing and speaking, each worth 25%. Students will be required to complete two translation tasks and talk in detail on an unprepared photo card, role play and general conversation. Regular testing of core vocabulary is an important element of the course, and students will need to be confident to speak in their chosen language.

LOOKING AHEAD

The ability to speak a foreign language is increasingly useful for careers in industry, technology and engineering as well as many aspects of commerce. If you wish to work as a translator, interpreter or teacher you will need to take a degree in one or more languages, but even if you stop at GCSE level, you will still have given yourself a very useful qualification. Top universities prefer applicants to have a GCSE in a language.

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

Involves studying the physical and human environments of the world and identifying how they are both linked. Geography teaches us about the Earth's places, peoples, environments and societies, helping us to understand the relationships between the human and physical environments. Success in the subject is reliant upon a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, an open mind and a genuine interest in the subject.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will study both Physical Geography, (covering rivers, coasts, rainforests, deserts and weather hazards) and Human Geography, (covering energy, resource management and global development) as well as Geographical research in the form of fieldwork trips. Geography encourages an awareness of people and places in your local area and of the wider world. Key skills developed in Geography are; observation, recording, presenting information, data analysis, interpretation of evidence, decision making and problem solving.

ASSESSMENT

There will be three written examinations at the end of Year 11. Physical Geography paper, Human Geography paper and one Geographical applications.

LOOKING AHEAD

Geography is a broad based academic subject. Employers and universities see Geography as a robust academic subject rich in highly transferable skills (literacy, numeracy and communication), knowledge and understanding.

HISTORY GCSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

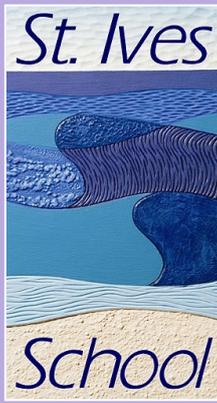
Students will learn about five topics in-depth through a range of fascinating source development studies. They will also develop their contextual knowledge and history skills. The topics allow for an interesting balance between British and International History and all have links to how the world is influenced today. Topics will include: Crime and Punishment in Britain from c.1000-present; a study of Whitechapel, c.1870-1900; Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939; Superpower relations during the Cold War, 1941-1991; and Anglo Saxon and Norman England, 1066-1088.

ASSESSMENT

Three externally assessed exams at the end of Y11.

LOOKING AHEAD

Many students who take History at GCSE decide they want to continue to study it at A-level because of its thought provoking nature as well as developing complex skills of analysis and literacy. Students are keen to develop the high levels of source analysis and literacy that they have learnt through their History GCSE. History degrees are a stepping stone to many occupations such as journalism, media, politics, law and teaching.



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