

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

Cromwell Avenue, Westbrook, Warrington, Cheshire, WA5 1HG.
Telephone: 01925 574888



Headteacher

Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

Ref: NHI/RWI/Options/25

17th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter aims to provide you with the relevant information regarding St Gregory's Catholic High School's GCSE Bespoke Curriculum Choices process for Year 9 pupils. On Wednesday 15th January, there was a Celebration of the Word presented by the Curriculum Leadership Team outlining the process of the Year 9 Curriculum Choices. This process begins now to allow pupils to gain the insight, as well as time, to access the support on offer to ensure they ultimately opt for the best suite of KS4 qualifications to study in Years 10 and 11.

The Curriculum Pathways 2025-2027 booklet is now live on the Curriculum Pathways page of the school website (<https://www.stgregoryshigh.com/curriculum/bespoke-curriculum-choices>) and contains information regarding Bespoke Curriculum Choices. The booklet is part of a comprehensive support package to help each pupil in making the best choices. In addition to the booklet, there will be a suite of activities to support your child:

- ❖ A Senior Leadership presentation outlining the process, and advice on how to make the best curriculum choices
- ❖ A dedicated part of the school website which will be populated with:
 - Teacher presented videos centred on curriculum experience of GCSE subjects with frequently asked pupil questions
 - Pupil presented videos centred on pupil experience of GCSE subjects
- ❖ A dedicated email to provide parental/pupil support regarding the Curriculum Choices process 'CurriculumChoices@stgregoryshigh.com'
- ❖ The opportunity for Careers Advice Sessions with our Careers Advisors, Stacey Lowe
- ❖ Dedicated PSHE sessions every two weeks centred on the Curriculum Choices process as well as college and career sessions (including Kudos profile making (information within booklet)).
- ❖ Engage and Curriculum Choices Evening on **Thursday 13th February** (further information to be given in due course)
 - This evening will include a pupil led market place where there will be an opportunity to speak to pupils currently studying all of the GCSE subjects to answer questions
- ❖ A Careers Fair with local and national businesses and employers, as well as local Colleges and Sixth Forms (**Friday 14th February**)
- ❖ Ongoing support from the Pupil Progress Team for Year 9, Mr Wiles and Miss Evans, before submission of the options forms on **Friday 28th February**
- ❖ One-to-one coaching with Form Tutors during form time

Both you and your child are currently at the first step on the journey of choosing the best subjects for KS4 study. Please spend time going through the booklet with your child. As parents/carers, it is important that you read through and understand the 'Important Points to Note' sections on pages 6 and 7 for additional information on our bespoke curriculum and amendments to the traditional grading system.

One family... inspired to learn.'

SEAL it with RESPECT

Fax: 01925 243 816

Email: schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com

Website: www.stgregoryshigh.com



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As you may be aware, nationally, there is an increased emphasis on the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). This is to reflect the Government's ambition for more pupils to attain the EBacc qualification. The EBacc is a suite of subjects that, when studied together, provide a broad range of skills which are favoured by, and will prepare pupils for post-16 study and future success. By taking the EBacc at St Gregory's, pupils are still able to make choices within the EBacc suite of subjects, in addition to having a free choice from a list of qualifications. More information on the EBacc can be found on pages 6 & 7 of the booklet. In order to prepare our pupils to meet the demands of the competitive further education and employment market in the future, we have created a bespoke curriculum offer for each pupil. This reflects our knowledge of our pupils' strengths and how best to support them for life after St Gregory's Catholic High School.

We are proud that Ofsted consistently praise curriculum at St Gregory's and in July they stated that: "The school has designed a curriculum which is ambitious and broad for all pupils. It has identified the key knowledge and concepts that pupils should learn. The curriculum is carefully ordered to ensure that pupils have the prior knowledge that is needed to successfully grasp new subject content."

Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourself with the literature online, as well as ensuring that your child engages and understands the process. If you are in a position where you cannot access the website for the Curriculum Choices booklet and require a paper copy, please email Mr Wiles (rwiles@stgregoryshigh.com).

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Hill

Mr N Hill
Assistant Headteacher

Mr R Wiles

Mr R Wiles
Pupil Progress Manager for Year 9