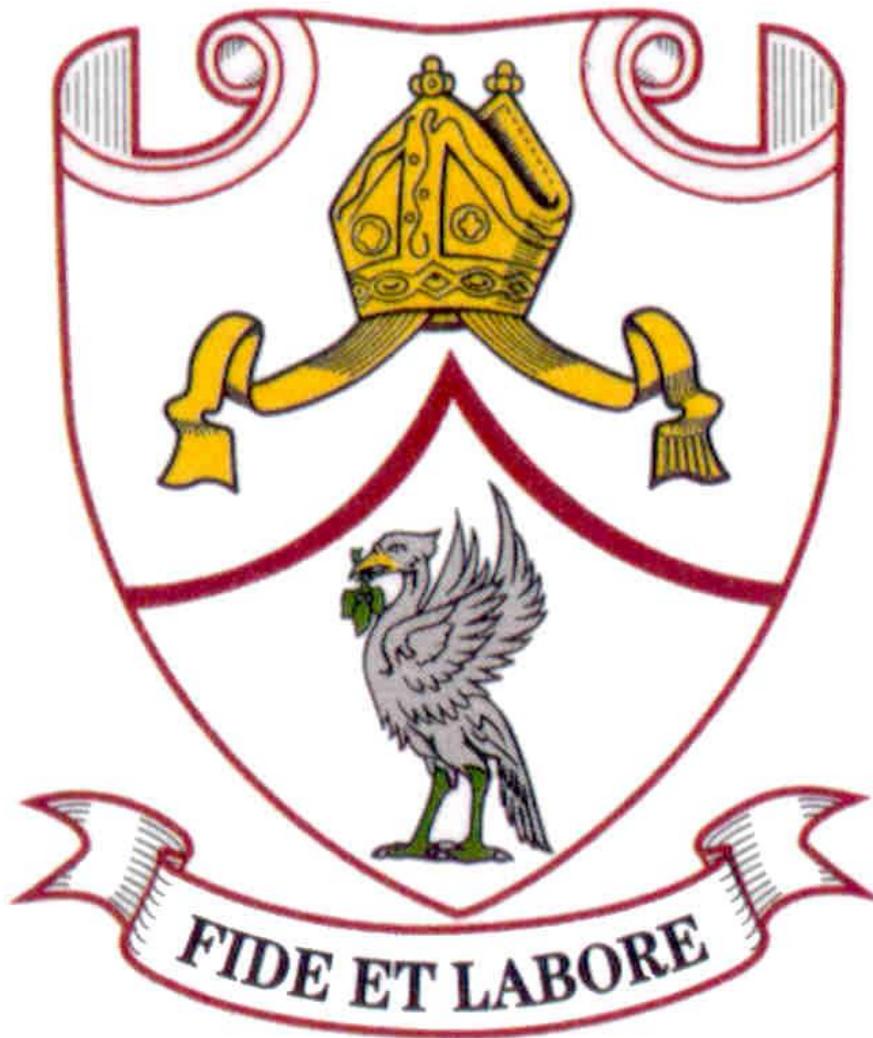


**St Margaret's  
Church of England  
Academy**



**YEAR 9 OPTIONS FORM  
January 2017**

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# St Margaret's Church of England Academy

## Year 9 Options Forms, 2016/2017



### What is this booklet for?

- This booklet is one of **two** booklets you will be given to help you decide what you will study next year.
- The other booklet you will receive explains the structure of the curriculum in Years 10 and 11, and gives more details about the courses available. In short, Year 10 pupils **must** study:

Compulsory subjects in Year 10
English (which will lead to two GCSEs, in Language and Literature)
Mathematics
Combined Science: Trilogy (which will lead to two GCSEs – see below)
Religious Studies
Physical Education (non-GCSE course)
‘Learning for Life’ our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education programme (non-GCSE course)

In addition, pupils may choose to study usually **three** other qualifications from this list:

Optional subjects in Year 10
Art GCSE
Business Studies GCSE
Computing GCSE
Design Technology GCSE
Design Technology: First Certificate in Engineering BTEC
Drama GCSE
French GCSE
Geography GCSE
German GCSE
History GCSE
Level 1/Level 2 Award in Hospitality
Information Technology Technical Award
Music GCSE
Photography GCSE
Physical Education GCSE
Separate Science GCSE (a third GCSE in Science – see below)
Spanish GCSE

We hope to be able to run courses in all these subjects, but may not be able to do so if numbers are small. Details about all these courses may be found in the other booklet.

- **This booklet should be used to let us know which courses you would like to study.** Every pupil must complete the form in this booklet. The form must be signed by both the pupil and a

parent, and returned to Mr S Slater in school by **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017**. Pupils who hand their form in late without good reason may find their chances of studying all their chosen courses are reduced.

### How do I start?

Before you fill in the form, you must think very carefully about two particular questions.

- **Should I study a combination of subjects which will give me the ‘English Baccalaureate’?**
- **Should I study two Science GCSEs (known as ‘*Combined Science: Trilogy*’), or three Science GCSEs (separate Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics)?**

### What is the English Baccalaureate? Should I study it?

The English Baccalaureate – often called the EBacc – is **not** a separate qualification. Instead it is a combination of subjects. If you gain GCSEs in English, Maths, Science, a language and a humanity (*ie* History or Geography), you are said to have achieved the EBacc, although you would not receive a separate certificate to confirm this. The Government includes details about the proportion of pupils in each school that achieve the EBacc in its annual Performance Tables.

Whether or not you choose to study a combination of subjects that will give you the EBacc is up to you. It is not currently a requirement for study at our most prestigious Universities, or for entry into professions such as medicine or teaching, and it is unlikely it will be in the future. However, it does show that a pupil has studied a broad range of GCSEs, and this is looked upon favourably in some quarters. **Our advice would be that students who are likely to achieve highly at GCSE (predominantly at grade 6/7 or above) should give serious consideration to studying an EBacc-compatible combination of subjects.**

### Should I study Combined Science or Separate Sciences?

There are more details about the Science courses we offer in the other booklet.

‘Separate’ Sciences – *ie* separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics – are a good preparation for the study of Science at ‘A’-level, for Science degree courses, and for careers based in the Sciences. However, the workload for separate Sciences is demanding and pupils who are not likely to achieve the equivalent of at least a grade 5 at the end of Key Stage 3 may find separate Science challenging. It is still possible to pursue Science ‘A’-levels and degrees having studied just *Combined Science: Trilogy*, to GCSE level.

‘Separate’ Sciences counts as one of your three options from the ‘Optional Subjects’ block on page 3.

### What else do I choose? Can I make a reserve choice?

Once you have decided on the EBacc and the Separate Science questions, you can choose up to three other subjects from the list of ‘Optional Subjects’ on page 3. Naturally if you want to study

the EBacc, two of your three choices will need to be a language and a humanity; and if you want to study separate sciences, you must choose that as one of your three choices too.

You must choose your subjects from the following grid:

	Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Row 1		RS GCSE		RS GCSE
Row 2	French GCSE	Computer Science GCSE	Separate Sciences GCSE ( <i>ie</i> Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	History GCSE
		Geography GCSE		
		German GCSE	Geography GCSE	
		Spanish GCSE	History GCSE	
Row 3	Art GCSE	Business GCSE	Business GCSE	Drama GCSE
	Engineering BTEC	IT Technical Award	Level 1/Level 2 Award in Hospitality	Photography GCSE
	Music GCSE			
	Technology GCSE	PE GCSE		Technology GCSE

You must choose:

- one subject in each block,
- RS in Block B or Block D, and
- at least one subject from Row 2.

Please note that Engineering BTEC, the IT Technical Award, and the Level 1/Level 2 Award in Hospitality are non-GCSE courses. More details about these courses can be found in the other booklet. Also, some of the courses have yet to be approved by the Government regulator, so please be aware that changes to the information published in the other booklet may need to be made.

We hope to be able to accommodate everyone's choices in this structure. However, it may be the case that some courses do not run (because of small numbers, for example); and for other courses, there are limits on group-sizes because of access to specialist facilities (*eg* we only have one Food room at the moment!). It may therefore be necessary for give some pupils a 'reserve choice'.

The Options Form therefore asks you to give your ideal choice (across all four blocks), and a second choice (across all four blocks – some of which may be the same as your first choice), and a third choice too (again, across all four blocks).

## Do I have any other choices?

Yes. You have one other choice about Work Inspiration, and some pupils will have a further choice about Statistics GCSE.

### **Choice 1: the Work Inspiration programme**

In recent years, St Margaret's pupils have not been able to undertake Work Experience until the Sixth Form. Last year, we reintroduced Work Experience into our Key Stage 4 programme, calling the programme Work Inspiration; we did this because we believe that a work placement can make a real difference to youngsters' life-chances. Some of our pupils may progress from Year 11 to take an apprenticeship, for example; for them, experience of the world of work could give them an extra advantage in the application process. Other pupils may aspire to careers in competitive fields such as medicine or law – areas where the most prestigious Universities (such as those in the Russell Group) often expect prospective applicants to have undertaken some sort of Work Experience.

Unlike most school Work Experience programmes, Work Inspiration is not offered as a one- or two-week 'block' out of school. Instead it is intended that boys will spend one afternoon a week out-of-school at a setting appropriate to their future aspirations.

However, Work Inspiration is not compulsory; pupils may choose extra non-GCSE PE instead. The programme will take place on Thursday afternoons and is likely to work like this:

	Year 10		Year 11	
	First half	Second half	First half	Second half
<b>Work Inspiration: Cohort 1</b>	Preparation for the Work Inspiration placement	Out on Work Inspiration placement	PE	Study support
<b>Work Inspiration: Cohort 2</b>	Study support	Preparation for the Work Inspiration placement	Out on Work Inspiration placement	PE
<b>Non-GCSE PE group</b>	PE	PE	PE	PE

Whilst pupils are out on placement, we will naturally keep in regular contact with employers and expect exemplary standards of behaviour and uniform throughout their time with employers. In the unlikely event of either poor conduct or us being unable to source an appropriate placement, pupils will return to school and pursue the PE option instead.

Pupils may also opt for extra non-GCSE PE. Year 10 boys already have two periods of non-GCSE PE per fortnight, and those who opt for extra non-GCSE PE will have four periods per fortnight. The advantages of non-GCSE PE cannot be understated. It is well-known that regular physical activity is beneficial for both health and academic study, and our PE Department (rated as '*outstanding*' by Ofsted in 2011) has an enviable track record not only of success in school competitions, but also in ensuring all youngsters are able to participate in high-quality physical activity.

## **Choice 2: Statistics GCSE**

Mathematics GCSE is one of the most important qualifications you will study next year. For many students they will need to spend all the time they have for Maths (8 lessons per fortnight) concentrating on Maths GCSE.

However, for some students with high prior attainment, we are able to offer an extra qualification: Statistics GCSE. There is some overlap between Maths GCSE and Statistics GCSE, so the course will be offered as an 'extra' in pupils' Maths lessons (and thus taught by their GCSE Maths teacher), rather than as one of their 'Optional Subjects' listed on page 3. We expect this course will be useful particularly for those who wish to study social sciences (such as Psychology or Sociology) at 'A'-level or degree level, as well as those who are interested in studying Maths post-16.

Pupils who are currently taught by Mr Wadsworth or by Dr Mendy are therefore asked to choose whether they also study Statistics GCSE. It is hoped, from these two sets, to form two new classes, one of which will study both Maths and Statistics GCSEs (which may also necessitate some extra lessons after school), and one of which will concentrate solely on Maths GCSE.

### *Where can I get more advice?*

This is an important stage in your education, and it is important that you make the right choice for the future.

- **If you want to find out more about the courses on offer**, read the other booklet, and talk to teacher in charge of that subject in school.
- **If you want to find out whether you would be able to study a subject successfully to GCSE** (eg "*Would I be able to study separate Sciences to GCSE?*"), ask your subject teacher.
- **If you want to find out more about your careers choices** (eg "*I want to work in the Spanish tourist industry in the future. Do I need a GCSE in Spanish?*" – or, "*I have no idea about what sort of job I'd like to do. Does it matter what I choose?*"), ask Mr Jones or Ms Lalgee.
- **If you want to find out more about how the Options system works**, ask Mr Slater.
- If you still have questions after asking other members of staff, ask Mr Brierley.

### *By when must I hand in my form?*

You must hand in your form **to Mr Slater** by **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017**.

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# St Margaret's Academy

## Year 9 Options Form, 2016/2017



Please complete all sections of this form.

1	Pupil's name:	
	Pupil's form:	

2	Look at the grid below.				
		<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C</b>	<b>Block D</b>
	Row 1		RS GCSE		RS GCSE
	Row 2	French GCSE	Computer Science GCSE	Separate Sciences GCSE ( <i>ie</i> Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	History GCSE
			Geography GCSE		
			German GCSE		
	Row 3		Spanish GCSE	Geography GCSE	Drama GCSE
			Art GCSE	Business GCSE	
			Engineering BTEC	Business GCSE	
			Music GCSE	Level 1/Level 2 Award in Hospitality	
	Technology GCSE	PE GCSE	Technology GCSE		

3	Write down your <b>first choices</b> from the subjects above.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must choose RS in Block B or Block D.</li> <li>You must choose a subject from Row 2.</li> </ul>			
My 1 <sup>st</sup> choice	<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C</b>	<b>Block D</b>

4	Write down your <b>second choices</b> from the subjects above. (You must still choose RS and from Row 2).			
	My 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice	<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C</b>

5	Write down your <b>third choices</b> from the subjects above. (You must still choose RS and from Row 2).			
	My 3 <sup>rd</sup> choice	<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C</b>

6				Tick
	I wish to join the Work Inspiration programme.			
	I wish to take non-GCSE PE for 2 extra periods a fortnight ( <i>ie</i> 4 periods of non-GCSE PE in all)			

7	I am in Mr Wadsworth's or Dr Mendy's Maths set and wish to study Statistics GCSE.			
	I do not wish to study Statistics GCSE.			

8	Signatures:	(pupil)	(parent)
	Print name:		
	Date:		

Now detach this form from the booklet and give it in to Mr Slater by **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February**.