

07 March 2025

Year 9 Options Information

P

Punctual

P

Prepared

P

Proud

P

Polite

P

Participants



P

Prayer

S

Service

J

Justice

F

Forgiveness

P

Peace



Mr Breen

Deputy Headteacher



Collective Worship – The St Monica's prayer



Dear Lord,

Help us to live out our values of Prayer, Service,
Forgiveness, Justice and Peace.

Help us to recognise, celebrate and support our diverse
and different Catholic family.

Help us to use our gifts, talents and potential to make a
difference to our world.

Amen

St Monica, pray for us

St Teresa, pray for us





Our mission



At St Monica's we are a Catholic family, diverse and different, supporting each other in all we do through prayer and service.

We seek to live out the gospel values of justice, forgiveness and peace recognising the potential of each person in our community.

As members of St Monica's, we are challenged to develop our God given talents to the full, so we are prepared to make a difference in our world.



The journey so far

- September 2010(ish) – the beginning!
- September 2015 – started at primary school
- September 2022 – started at St Monica's



Your child is now entering the next stage of their school life

- September 2025 – start of Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and Year 11)

The next major event for your child is the options process

This gives them the opportunity to shape part of their final two years in St Monica's



Our curriculum vision



Teaching and learning sits at the heart of school life at St Monica's.

It is rooted in our mission statement: we encourage all pupils to use their God-given talents and recognise the potential of each person in our community.

Every student at St Monica's is entitled to, and deserves, a high-quality learning experience in every lesson:

“Every child, every opportunity for success, every day”





Our curriculum principles



An emphasis on our Catholicity

Religious Education develops the social, moral and religious aspects of learning within our students

A clear focus on making progress in English and Mathematics

The curriculum has been structured to help pupils achieve their potential in these core subjects

A broad choice of subjects

Our subjects are designed to help students to understand modern Britain and the wider world. They also provide key skills that are valued in further education and employment - we aim to ensure your child is competitive in their life beyond St Monica's

An emphasis on physical and mental wellbeing

All students will take part in physical education for at least one period per week and receive support for their mental health via our Personal Development programme



External validation



The school's curriculum is highly ambitious for all pupils

There are high expectations for what pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), can achieve

Pupils study a broad and rich curriculum

Teachers have strong subject knowledge

Teachers select tasks that help pupils revisit, practise and embed important ideas well

Pupils achieve well, including in national examinations

Inspection of St Monica's RC High School, a Voluntary Academy

Bury Old Road, Prestwich, Manchester, Greater Manchester M25 1JH

Inspection dates:	21 and 22 January 2025
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good



Key Stage 4 - compulsory subjects

Religious Education	5 hours per fortnight
Mathematics	9 hours per fortnight
English Language	9 hours per fortnight
English Literature	9 hours per fortnight
Science – combined	10 hours per fortnight
Physical Education	2 hours per fortnight

All pupils will
study these
subjects for
the allocated
time listed



Key Stage 4 - three optional subjects

**At least one of these
subjects;**

**Geography
History
Spanish**

**Art
3D Design
Business Studies
Computer Science
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Drama
Music
Physical Education
Science – Triple award**

Each optional subject is studied for 5 hours per fortnight



How to decide



Over the coming weeks pupils will receive – and can ask for - guidance from the following members of our team ;

Subject teachers

Form Teachers

Head of Year

Heads of Department

Senior Leadership Team

Careers Advisors





Factors to guide choices



The following factors should/shouldn't be considered when making choices;

Ability



Interest



Possible career



Class teacher



Friends





English Baccalaureate (EBacc) – what is it?

The EBacc is a set of subjects which pupils may choose to study at GCSE

These are;

English

Mathematics

Science

Geography or History

Modern Foreign Language



To qualify for the EBacc pupils must study all of these subjects

Schools are measured on how many pupils select this combination of subjects and how well they achieve in them

The government ambition is for 90% of all pupils to be studying this combination of subjects by 2025



English Baccalaureate (EBacc)



We do not direct pupils to make choices which make them eligible for the EBacc

We recognise this would have a significant impact on their possible option choices

Our role is to guide and inform

We want our pupils to be competitive when they leave and go to further education/employment

We want our pupils to be able to make a difference in the world

EBacc impact

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.

Research shows that a pupil's socio-economic background impacts the subjects they choose at GCSE, and that this determines their opportunities beyond school.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

The government's ambition is to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025.



Options process

Your child will receive an electronic form for completion, emailed to their school email account

Subjects will be listed in 3 blocks – one subject is to be selected from each block

We will do all we can to ensure your child's first choices are met

Some combinations of subjects are not allowed – for example Art & Design with 3D Design

Some combinations of subjects will not be possible as they will be taught at the same time

While we don't restrict access to courses it should be noted that Computer Science requires a high level of Mathematical understanding



Options blocks

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Art	Art	Art
Business Studies	Business Studies	Drama
Computer Science	Food – Preparation & Nutrition	Geography
Geography	Technology – 3D Design	History
History	Geography	Music
PE	History	Spanish
Spanish		Triple Science



Key Dates

W/C 3rd March – pupils to begin to receive information in lessons about KS4 courses

Thu 6th March – Year 9 Parents Evening / Options Presentation

Wed 19th March – Year 9 Options Assembly

Thu 20th March – Year 9 Options information sent home – subject information and options form

Wed 23rd April – Deadline for completion of electronic options form



Thank
you

