



**SALE** HIGH SCHOOL

## Year 9 Pathways

# Welcome





SALE HIGH SCHOOL

# Sale High School Values

Value
Aspiration
Resilience
Achievement
Respect
Diversity
Community

When we're aspirational and resilient,  
we achieve our potential

When we respect others and value diversity we build  
a strong community where everyone is safe, happy  
and proud to belong.

# Options 2026





# Pathway Process

- The **curriculum** has been designed to be **ambitious and challenging**, meeting government criteria
- 2 pathways - **Ebacc and Performance**
- On the **Ebacc pathway** a **language** is compulsory
- Pupils on the **Performance pathway** can select the same Ebacc subjects



# Why is the Ebacc Pathway important?

- The government has confirmed that they expect '**the large majority**' of **pupils to study the Ebacc**
- Ebacc as a measure of a school's '**level of ambition**' for its pupils
- The Ebacc should be at the **heart of** an effective key stage 4 curriculum'
- The **Ebacc suite of qualifications** contains maths, English, science x2, humanities and a **language**

**What kind of skills do you gain from language learning??**

- Communication
- Problem solving
- Analysing
- Developing relationships
- Translation
- Cultural understanding
- Memorising information
- Confidence
- Team work





# Compulsory Subjects

1. Maths
2. English Language
3. English Literature
4. Combined Science (X2)

- PSHE
- PE



# The Ebacc Pathway

1. Maths
2. English Language
3. English Literature
4. **Combined Science**
5. **Combined Science**
6. Spanish
7. **History or Geography**

➤ **Two** further option from any of the following:

1. Art, Craft and Design
2. Business Studies
3. Computer Science
4. Design and Technology/**Technical Engineering**
5. Drama
6. **Technical Food and Cookery**
7. Geography/**Travel and Tourism**
8. History (if not already taken)
9. Music
10. Physical Education
11. Religious Studies
12. Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
13. **Health and Social Care**



# The Performance Pathway

1. Maths
2. English Language
3. English Literature
4. **Combined Science**
5. **Combined Science**
6. **History, Geography or Spanish**

➤ **Three** further option from any of the following:

1. Art, Craft and Design
2. Business Studies
3. Computer Science
4. Design and Technology/**Technical Engineering**
5. Drama
6. **Technical Food and Cookery**
7. Geography/**Travel and Tourism**
8. History (if not already taken)
9. Music
10. Physical Education
11. Religious Studies
12. Spanish
13. Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
14. **Health and Social Care**



# GCSE v Vocational

- GCSE are often more % exam
- Vocational courses have % coursework/controlled assessment
- Vocational is a more applied course
- Vocational courses have a greater link to industry

Subject	Exams	NEA
Art	1x 10hr exam	60% 2 projects
Business	2x 1.5 hr exam	
Computer Science	2x 1.5 hr exam	
DT	1 x 2hr exam	50%
Drama	1 x 1 hr 45 exam	60% prac, written
PE	2 x 1 hr 15 exams	40%
RE	2 x 1 hr 45	
History	3 x 1 hr 20- 1hr 50 exams	
Geography	3 x 1hr 30 exams	
Spanish	4 x exams	(Speaking)
Music	1 x 1hr 30 exams	60% performing, composing



Subject	Exams	NEA
Engineering	1 x 1.5hr exam	60%
Food and Cookery	1 x 1.5hr exam	60%
Health and Social	1 x 2 hr exams	60%
Travel and Tourism	1 x 2hr exams	60%
English	2 x 1hr 45	speaking
English Literature	1 x 1hr 45 / 1 x 2hr 15	
Maths	3 x 1hr 30m exam	
Science (trilogy)	6 X 1 hr 15mins	worth 2 GCSEs
Triple	2 x 1 hr 45mins for each science	Worth 3 GCSEs



# Common Mistakes

- **Don't** make choices based on your **friends**, they can't study it for you!
- **Don't** make a choice based on one **teacher** – there's no guarantee they will teach you
- **Don't** ignore what you're good at – this often goes hand in hand with what you enjoy
- Listen to your teachers, actually try to understand what the course **is** about and what it involves



## Are there any subjects that have requirements?

Triple science and computer science students should be aiming for 60% in the latest assessments

Music requires you to play an instrument (this can be voice)

Drama requires you to perform

High attendance rates



## KS4 Sets

- The majority of option subjects do NOT have sets- they are mainly taught as mixed ability
- Occasionally if more than one class is running at the same time/in the same option block (e.g. 3x Spanish classes) they may decide to form loose sets.
- There will be 2 sides of the year with sets within each side. This will be based on performance in English, maths and science alongside ATL.
- Ebacc and performance pathway is NOT an indication of sets. The only difference between Ebacc and performance is that Ebacc pathway have to choose Spanish, where the Performance pathway Spanish is an option.



# Next Steps

- Consider what subjects they do well at, what they enjoy and if they know their next steps.
- Discuss option choices with the teacher
- Discuss option choices with the careers advisor
- Find out about the course (content and assessment)
- Use the booklets and subject presentations found online
- Link will be sent out **2nd March**
- **Complete the online form by 9<sup>th</sup> March**