



## St Thomas More Catholic School

*'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'*

Archbishop Oscar Romero

SJH/EEC/Y9 OPTIONS

26 January 2018

Parents and students – Year 9

Dear parents and students,

It is important that students are able to take a bespoke range of subjects that will suit their interests and abilities.

All students will take a core of subjects:

**English Language**

**English Literature**

**Maths**

**Double Science**

**Religious Education**

This range of subjects will allow students to progress onto the majority of courses, apprenticeships and jobs. As a Catholic school, all of our students need to study Religious Education. This subject helps us to explore our Catholic faith, it also gives students an understanding of other cultures and the ability to be able to argue effectively from different viewpoints, an invaluable life skill.

Other options for students are determined according to a pathway based on their academic performance. There are four options pathways:

**RED**

**YELLOW**

**GREEN**

**BLUE**

All students will continue to study

**History or Geography**

except those on the Blue Pathway who will take

**Travel and Tourism**

**Red pathway** students are predominantly placed in 'M' 1 to 4 classes. However students who are working at a grade 5 or above in Maths, English and Science will also be included in this pathway. **The majority of these students will continue to study a Modern Foreign Language (French or German).** Students currently studying French are advised to continue with French, those who have studied German may opt to continue to study German.

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Students working at a **level 6 in Science and Maths can opt for Triple Science.**

Those with a **level 6 in Maths can opt for Computer Science.** This is because both of these GCSE subjects rely on a high ability in maths.

Students who are studying German but do not opt for German GCSE may choose from the vocational and creative courses.

Students who do not opt for Computer Science or Triple Science may opt for the vocational and creative courses or GCSE Business Studies.

Red pathway students will mostly study a language option and have one further option. Those who do not continue with German will have two options.

**Yellow pathway** students can take 2 options from the vocational and creative courses. Students with a high ability in French, level 4 or above, can opt for GCSE French. Students with level 5 or above in Maths and English can opt for GCSE Business Studies.

**Green pathway** students can take 2 options from the vocational and creative courses. Students already taking Travel and Tourism can continue with this as one of their two options or select an alternative subject from the creative and vocational subjects list.

**Blue pathway** students will study two creative courses, ICT and Creative Media. These options will be accessible and students will be able to achieve good outcomes.

### **Creative and vocational subject options**

GCSE Art and Design  
Business Studies  
Creative Media  
Information and Communication Technology  
Design and Technology (Engineering or Food options)  
Health and Social Care  
Music  
Performing Arts  
P.E.  
Travel and Tourism

**Year 9 Options' Evening with further information will take place on February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

This will include talks about how the curriculum and pathways will work in more detail.

There will be talks and the opportunity for conversations with options staff who will set up stalls with further information.

Every student will be given an options booklet with detailed curriculum information on the evening.

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Talks will start at 5.00 pm and will be repeated again at 6.00 pm. The stalls will be available between 5.00 and 7.00 pm.

Your child will then have one week to discuss the information booklet and evening with you and time to ask staff further questions. We have a careers specialist Ms Rasmin who can provide additional Information and Guidance for students. However, with the exception of Computer Science, all subjects can be picked up again in sixth form for students who want to study them at A level (subject to grades achieved at GCSE). Whilst our curriculum, in-line with most schools does not offer a great deal of options it is broad and balanced, this means that it does not prevent students from progressing into other subjects and careers later.

**Options forms will be submitted to Mr Virgo at 9.00 am on February 8<sup>th</sup>**

I hope that our Options' Evening will answer all the questions you have, but the school is more than happy to answer any additional questions in order to support students making the best decisions for their future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr S J Hatfield  
Headteacher

M Bishell  
Assistant Headteacher

D Virgo  
Senior Assistant Headteacher

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