

What is the English Baccalaureate?



You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The English Baccalaureate is a “wrap around” qualification for those students who complete the specified subjects at Key Stage 4.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

English language and English literature

Maths

Science - Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science

History or Geography

A language

What is the EBacc?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it’s a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

How does the EBacc future proofs your child’s prospects

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain’s most prestigious universities.

How important is the EBacc?

The EBacc is becoming an increasingly important qualification, being used by many universities. Students with the EBacc may find themselves at an advantage over students without it. It shows a student’s ability to study a broad range of academic subjects.

The government’s ambition is to see 90% of GCSE pupils choosing the EBacc subject combination by 2025.

A study by the Sutton Trust reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person’s performance in English and maths.

Research by the UCL Institute of Education shows that taking the EBacc enhances prospects for entering further education or employment.

What about Art, Drama and Music?

While art drama and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.