



# GCSE Options 2026

*Building New Horizons Through Love, Faith and Excellence*

#TeamTBCS  
#MissiontoExcellence  
#ShowMeExcellence



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# The world beyond St Thomas Becket

- Your children will have to remain in Education or training until they are 18.
- The Government believes that adults will be 22-23 years old before they embark upon a career.
- As adults your children will probably change career 2-3 times during their adult lives and have 10-14 jobs by the age of 38. They will work to the age of 70+ before retirement.
- The days of a lifelong career with one company or within one industry have gone.



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# How are we preparing your children for this future?



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# All students at St Thomas Becket are entitled to a curriculum that is:

- Broad and Balanced
- Relevant
- Challenging
- Enjoyable
- Personalised



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# Subjects your child must take: The Compulsory element

- Religious Education
- English Language and English Literature
- Maths (some may study Further Maths)
- Science (this will be either Trilogy or Separate)
- PE

Further core elements in PSHE including Citizenship,  
Relationship, Sex and Health education.



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# GCSE Options – Non-compulsory element

- Students will then need to choose a further **3 options**
- They will need to spend some time thinking about this
- What should they choose?
  - Think about what they want to do when they leave school
  - Ensure that they have a wide range of subjects
  - Above all, make sure they are interested in the subject



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH



# Important point

- Option choices do not depend on what set a student is in.
- All students have the **same** option choices.



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH



# Meeting individual needs

- Three separate Sciences and Further Maths for some.
- The breadth of the curriculum allows all abilities to access courses because we offer level 1 and level 2 courses. E.g. Child Development, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering.
- We will always meet and discuss any bespoke provision with students and parents.



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH



# Grade 4 and 5 in English and Maths

- Grades 4/5 in English and Maths remain a key standard
- It will continue to be a key minimum requirement for many courses, apprenticeships & jobs
- Grade 5 is aligned with the average performance from high flying countries in international league tables
- ‘Raising the bar’



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH



# Attainment in the 'Best 8' subjects

- The 'best 8' is an important measure for both your child and us.
- The 'best 8' subjects is how we measure their average points score and ensures further pathways.
- We already do English, Maths, RE and at least two Sciences.
- Students will need to pick one more.

As a result, nearly **all our students will be required** to study at least one of:

**SPANISH, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY**



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# Choices



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# Criteria students should consider when choosing options

I like the subject ✓

- I think it will help my future ✓
- I am good at the subject ✓
- My friends are choosing it X
- I like the teacher X



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH



# Things to consider:

- Subjects that suit you son's/daughter's personality
- What is the % of controlled assessment/coursework to exam in some of your subjects?
- Very few subjects now do controlled assessments- most are examination based
- Will they enjoy the content?
- Combination of subjects – future?



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH



# Role of the parent

- Support
- Guidance – who to talk to
- Informed – understand the process and implications
- Work with us
- Ask questions
- Ensure form is completed by the deadline 13th February



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# Options form

Choose one in each column

At least one of your options should be a subject in **bold**

To keep your options for Post 16 as wide as possible, you must choose at least **one** option from the following (in bold on the options form):

- History**
- Geography**
- Spanish**



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# Options form



**RESPECT**



**TRUTH**



**COMPASSION**



**JUSTICE**



**FAITH**



# What to do next?

- Visit all the departments this evening, talk to staff and ask questions.
- Read the Options Booklet as it will include all the information about content and exams
- Option forms to be completed by **13th February**. It can be completed sooner if you wish
- Take your time to make the right decision- don't rush it
- It does **need** to be authorised by parent(s)/carer(s). This will be via the authorised tick box on the MS Form.



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH