

KS4 Option choices – additional information regarding the English Baccalaureate.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) was introduced by the Government to encourage pupils to take a more traditional academic combination of GCSE courses. It is not a qualification in its own right, but the number of pupils completing the EBACC is now recorded in performance tables.

It is the government's ambition that 75% of all pupils should begin studying a full set of EBacc subjects by 2022.

At Alder Grange we have always given pupils a free choice of subjects and will continue to do so. Many schools insist on all pupils selecting all the EBACC subjects at GCSE. We do not intend to do this. We would however, encourage those pupils who intend to move on to academic A Level and University courses to take the EBacc. The option blocks have been redesigned this year in order to both encourage this and still allow for two free choices.

Studying the EBacc is not a requirement for sixth form or A Level study, and all the courses on offer are selected carefully to ensure they are appropriate and of a high quality for our pupils.

In addition the curriculum at Alder Grange is designed to prevent pupils 'overspecialising' too early in their education, thus ensuring that all pupils will receive a broad and balanced curriculum, whether they choose to follow the EBacc or not.

The English Baccalaureate route:

This requires pupils to select:

- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE English
- GCSE Science
- a Humanities (GCSE History or GCSE Geography)
- Modern Foreign Language (GCSE French or GCSE Spanish).

There are two 'free' choices with this route.

The *non-* English Baccalaureate route:

This requires pupils to study:

- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE English and
- GCSE Science

and one from

- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE French
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Separate Sciences

There are three 'free' subjects with this route. Although no more than two can be non-GCSE courses.