

# WEST DERBY SCHOOL



## EBACC POLICY

This policy will be reviewed:	Annually
Last reviewed on:	16/06/2023
Approved on:	18 June 2024
Next review date:	31/07/2025
Signed:	S Graham (Headteacher)

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) was introduced as a performance measure for schools in England in the 2010 performance tables. It is not a qualification. The measure recognises where students have achieved a grade 5 (or grade 4) or better at GCSE in English, Mathematics, History or Geography, two sciences (including Computer Science) and a modern or ancient language. The EBacc includes academic subjects highly valued by universities, but it is not currently required for entry to any university. It is, however, made up of subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.

Research shows that a pupil's socio-economic background impacts the subjects they choose at GCSE, and that this determines their opportunities beyond school. A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

The current curriculum offer at West Derby School is designed to enable students to achieve academic excellence and to challenge all to achieve their full potential. It is balanced, broadly based, richly academic and designed to meet our students' needs. The consistently excellent progress and attainment achieved by our students are testament to the success of our current curriculum offer.

We offer a robust suite of GCSE and vocational subjects that are appropriate for our students and all students study the following core subjects:

English	Computing
Maths	PE
Science	Religious Studies
PSHE/RSE	Reading Ready

In addition, students can choose up to three options with guidance from the following courses:

Art (GCSE)	Art: Graphic Communication (GCSE)
Business Studies (Level 2)	Engineering (Level 2)
Catering (Level 2)	Music (Level 2)
Computer Science (GCSE)	Photography (GCSE)
Drama (Level 2)	Design Technology (GCSE)
Geography (GCSE)	Physical Education (Level 2)
History (GCSE)	Separate Science (GCSE)
Spanish (GCSE)	

Please note that if uptake is low in particular subjects, those subjects may not be available.

Students will be actively encouraged to study a combination of EBacc subjects, through the use of pathways, as well as other academic, creative and vocational courses to ensure that their studies are balanced and that they reflect the students' interests, talents and aspirations for the future. We firmly believe that an outstanding curriculum builds cultural capital and we will realise this through all aspects of the curriculum.

The Government's ambition is to see and 90% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2025. The Government believes that schools should offer students a broad range of academic subjects to the age of 16 and the EBacc promotes that aspiration.

At West Derby, we are in complete agreement that the EBacc combination of subjects is highly beneficial for many students; however, we also recognise that this pathway is not always appropriate for all students. Spanish is not compulsory for any student or group of students.

As a school, we are determined to maintain the quality of our curriculum and an element of choice at KS4, so valued by students and parents alike, for the foreseeable future.