



T pathway
GCSE Options Booklet
Fitzharrys School
2024

*You should have been informed by
email if this T pathway applies to you.*

January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The options process marks an important stage in a child's education; a decision that helps to move them further towards a successful and happy future. At Fitzharrys School we aim to support all students to ensure that they study subjects that will provide them with enjoyment, challenge, and success.

This booklet contains information about the **T pathway**. This pathway ensures a broad and balanced curriculum that enables access to a wide range of opportunities available post-16 and beyond. The national target is that over 75% of all students should be studying this pathway.

We hope that the booklet provides all of the information you need but our curriculum and pastoral teams are on hand to provide advice and support throughout the process. There will be opportunities in the next few weeks for students to talk to form tutors and subject teachers – and the parents evening on 26th January will also provide the chance for parents to talk to teachers. Students will also be taking part in the options week taster lessons w/c 23rd January along with a number of activities to support them thinking about their future pathways.

Wishing you good luck with the options process.

Kind regards,

Mrs A Twyford

Assistant Head Attainment & Assessment

The Key Stage 4 options timeline

Now	Parent evening bookings go live on E-Praise. Please try to prioritise your non-core bookings with teachers of subjects that your student is considering for option choices.
W/C 15th of January	Options week Students participate in careers activities and taster lessons
Thurs 25th of January	Year 9 Parents' Evening at Fitzharrys Options application forms distributed
Weds 7th February	Deadline for completed option application forms

Core subjects: T pathway

This pathway will normally lead to the award of 10 GCSE or equivalent.

All students will take the following core subjects:

- **English Literature and Language**
- **Maths**
- Triple Science (separate GCSE in **Biology**, **Chemistry** and **Physics**)
- Core Physical Education (non-examined)
- FitzFocus+ - including PSHCE and Religious Studies (non-examined)

In addition to the core subjects T pathway students must study

A modern foreign language.

The choice is French or Spanish or Either (for those who are equally happy to study either language).

A humanity

Either Geography or History.

If a student passes a language, a humanity, maths, a science and an English GCSE at grade 4 or above then they have satisfied the requirements of the English Baccalaureate.

Two more subjects from the full range of options available

Students will be required to select 4 subjects in preference order from all those available but will study two of them. Some combinations of subjects will not be available when the option blocks are constructed from the database of all the applications made. Some subjects may not run if there is insufficient demand. Students may select a second language or humanity here if they wish to.

Art, craft and design	Music practice (BTEC)
Business studies	Performing arts (BTEC)
Computer science	Physical education
Design and technology	Religious studies
French	Sociology
Food preparation and nutrition	Spanish
Geography	Statistics
History	

T pathway summary

Core	Modern language	Humanity	Open options (2)
English Language English Literature Maths Biology Chemistry Physics	French or Spanish or Either (no preference)	Geography or History	Choose four in preference order. Study two. (list of subjects in table above)

Core Subjects Information

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Triple science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

**For details of the option subjects please see the Option Subjects
Information Booklet**

English Language

What will I learn in this subject?

In this compulsory subject, you will learn how writers craft their texts – both fiction and non-fiction – to influence their readers. You will do this through the reading of, and exploration of, a wide range of texts from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and through creative and non-fiction writing of your own. Throughout the course, which is integrated with the teaching of English Literature, you will develop your knowledge and skills in critical thinking, analytical writing, evaluation, debate, comparison, creative writing, opinion writing, vocabulary, grammatical and linguistic convention. Above all, you will think deeply about communication: how to do it effectively, and how the texts you read and watch have been crafted to influence you.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (50%):

- Reading analysis of one fiction text
- Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2 (50%):

- Reading analysis of two non-fiction texts
- Writing to present a viewpoint

In both papers, you will receive marks for:

- your ability to interpret information and ideas from texts
- your ability to analyse the language, structure and form used by a writer to create effects
- your ability to compare writers' ideas and perspectives, across texts
- your ability to communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively
- the accuracy and effectiveness of your written communication

There is also a separate certificate for Spoken Language, which is assessed through a short speaking exam.

Where could this subject take me?

Success in English Language, as in English Literature, is an advantage when you apply for any future course or employment opportunity. Specialist careers include those in the fields of journalism, law, media, publishing, recruitment and HR and marketing and advertising.

What equipment would I need?

To participate fully in English Language lessons, you will need:

- a pen
- several highlighters of different colours

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Miss C Hartley

GCSE specification: [AQA \(8700\)](#)

English Literature

What will I learn in this subject?

In this subject, which is taught concurrently with English Language, you will experience a range of literary texts – novels, drama and poetry – and will know them in depth. Your lessons will focus on your development as a critical reader and writer, and you will acquire cultural, contextual and technical knowledge alongside the skill of responding analytically to literature. This course will equip you to read widely and with pleasure, and is a fantastic gateway to English Literature at A Level.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (40%):

- *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- Nineteenth century novel

Paper 2 (60%):

- *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding
- Anthology Poetry
- Unseen Poetry

In both papers, you will receive marks for:

- your ability to articulate, and provide evidence for, interpretations of texts
- your ability to analyse the language, structure and form used by a writer to create effects
- your understanding of the relationship between a text and its context
- your written communication.

Where could this subject take me?

Success in English Literature, as in English Language, is an advantage when you apply for any future course or employment opportunity. Specialist careers include those in the fields of journalism, law, media, publishing, recruitment and HR and marketing and advertising.

What equipment would I need?

To participate fully in English Language lessons, you will need:

- a pen
- several highlighters of different colours
- copies of your set texts

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Miss C Hartley

GCSE specification: [AQA \(8702\)](#)

Mathematics

What will I learn in this subject?

The course is designed to develop the skills you learnt in Key Stage 3 alongside learning new skills that will enable you to become successful not only in Mathematics but also in your other subjects.

Throughout your 3 years of Maths at Fitzharrys you will study a range of Maths that will help you develop a firm foundation for appropriate further study. The content of your Maths GCSE is detailed in your Blue Book – the revision guide that you have been creating each lesson since the beginning of year 9.

Mathematics at GCSE looks at 3 main skills:

- Mathematical fluency - can you recall knowledge?
- Mathematical reasoning - can you say why something mathematical has happened?
- Problem solving - break a problem down into bits to find a solution.

You will become confident in your use of mathematics and develop the confidence to use mathematics to tackle problems in the workplace and everyday life.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam counts for one third of your overall mark. The first paper is done without a calculator.

During the course you and your teacher will decide which tier of examination is best for you. There are 2 tiers: Foundation and Higher. Higher Tier covers grades 9,8,7,6,5,4,3, whilst Foundation tier covers grades 5,4,3,2,1.

Where could this subject take me?

A grade 4 or 5 in maths will be seen by many employers and course providers as a minimum requirement and numerous careers such as science and engineering need specific advanced mathematical skills. In addition, there are many more jobs where you will need to be numerate to quite a high standard. Success in maths GCSE will help you progress with your future career regardless of the area of work or study.

What equipment would I need?

We recommend CASIO scientific calculators. These are available in most supermarkets to purchase or online here:

- [CASIO GCSE calculator](#)
- [If you are considering A-Level Maths this calculator is preferable as it has some extra statistical functions](#)

You will also need a Protractor and a Pair of Compasses alongside your standard school equipment. These can be hired from student services for 50p each.



Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mr T Smytherman
GCSE specification: [AQA 8300](#)

Triple Science

What will I learn in this subject?

Science is a core subject, so all students must take Science at GCSE level. Those students who have shown that they are able to learn the concepts at a greater pace and in more depth will complete the triple science course and be awarded three GCSEs.

Biology Topics:

1. Cell Biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation, and evolution 7. Ecology

Chemistry Topics:

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure and properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using Earth's resources

Physics Topics:

1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure 5. Forces
6. Magnetism and electromagnetism 7. Space physics

In addition to investigative work that your teacher chooses to give you as part of your learning there are required practicals in each subject (28 in total) throughout the courses that you must complete.

How will I be assessed?

These are linear qualifications which means that all exams are at the end of the course in Year 11. There will be two exams for each of the GCSE subjects studied and these are each 1 hour and 45 minutes long. There is no controlled assessment or coursework, but the required practicals will help you build up your skills and are tested extensively within the exams.

Where could this subject take me?

Science qualifications are vital for many careers. All medically based careers require Science. Other careers vary from engineering through to hairdressing. There are many opportunities in the local area to work in scientific industries and businesses. This course provides an excellent foundation for both further study and training.

What equipment would I need?

Normal stationary (pens, pencil, ruler, rubber) and a calculator.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mr A Easton

GCSE specification: [AQA GCSE Biology](#), [AQA GCSE Chemistry](#), [AQA GCSE Physics](#).