

Year 9 into 10 GCSE Options 2024-26



Beths Grammar School

Ancient History

Art and Design

Business

Chinese Mandarin

Computer Science

Design Tech

Drama

Economics

Electronics

Engineering

French

Geography

Geology

German

History

Italian

Latin

Music

Music Tech

Photography

PE

Psychology

RE

Sociology

Spanish

Statistics

Curriculum Pathway (Core Subjects)

Stage 1 – The compulsory subjects

- It is compulsory that every student will study the following subjects;
 - Mathematics
 - English Language
 - English Literature
 - ALL three Science disciplines (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

All students will have lessons in PSHCE and Games however these will NOT be examined.

Running Total
6 GCSEs

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc refers to a combination of subjects that **the Government thinks is important for young people to study at GCSE.**

It includes:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- 2 Sciences
- Geography or History
- A Modern or Ancient Language

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

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

EBacc Choices

All students are strongly advised to study a Modern or Ancient Language

– Chinese Mandarin

– French

– German

– Spanish

– Italian

– Latin

Entry requirements

A Levels

Grades AAA

Subjects Mathematics and Physics required.

Grades AAB ([more about contextual offers](#))
(contextual offer)

Subjects Grade A in Mathematics and Physics required.
(contextual offer)

GCSEs

English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-requirements

Does Geology count towards the humanity aspect for EBacc?

No, Geology is not a humanities subject.

What languages count towards the language aspect for EBacc?

All modern foreign languages taught here at Beths, in addition to Latin. There are other languages too, which can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>

Option Choices

In addition to the 6 compulsory subjects, you need to choose 4 options subjects from the list below. You must also pick a reserve.

- Ancient History
- Art and Design
- Business
- Chinese Mandarin
- Computer Science
- Design Tech
- Drama
- Economics
- Electronics
- Engineering
- French
- Geography
- Geology
- German
- History
- Italian
- Latin
- Music
- Music Tech
- Photography
- PE
- Psychology
- RE
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Statistics

Running Total
6+4 = 10 GCSEs

The Decision Making process

So where do you start?

- Consider your future career aspirations
- Consider your A Level thoughts (Check the sixth form website for requirements)
- Look at university websites, do they have specific GCSE requirements?
- You may not know exactly what job you want after education, but you may want to consider the type of industry you wish to go into.
- Aim for a ***‘broad and balanced’*** range of subjects





DO's & DON'Ts



Choose subjects that you ENJOY and that you are good at (look at your reports)	Do not let friends influence your decision – this is your future.
Ensure that the chosen subjects will hold your interest for 2 full years	Do not select subjects based on which teacher you think you will have
Read the assessment guidance on the options booklet – will you sit 100% written exams or are there controlled assessments?	There is no such thing as an ‘easy GCSE’ .
Think about your current skills and consider if you think they are enough for the subject (e.g. Art, Drama, PE)	Do not opt for more than one creative subject, unless agreed with the Head of Subject.
Research careers, university courses etc. and speak to your teachers	

Frequently asked questions

Can my child do more than 10 GCSEs?

We only timetable for students to complete 10 however some students do complete additional GCSEs (often community languages) externally.

We also very strongly discourage students from sitting GCSEs early externally as these rarely result in the grade the student would have got in Year 11.

What GCSEs should my child pick if they want to do X at University?

In short this depends on the course and the university. Look at the A level requirements for courses and work back from there.

[Beths Grammar School - A Level Curriculum](#)

Subject Choices booklet - [here](#)

Is there any preference over which students get which subjects?

We will aim to give all students their first 4 choices provided the option choices are submitted by the deadline (3pm on the 3rd May).

We rarely need to use students' reserve choices, but it can happen, so please think carefully about that.

Submitting the form early doesn't change your chance of getting on that course.

Will my child do well in subject X? Will they have a certain teacher?

The skills needed for each subject are varied and the best person to speak to is the class teacher or Head of Department.

With regards to staffing we will not be assigning staff to classes until later in the year and staffing may change. This should therefore **NOT** be a factor when selecting subjects.

Can my child do multiple creative subjects?

Our aim at Beths is to produce a curriculum and experience that suits what your child enjoys and excels at. The short answer is therefore yes.

We would, however, caution that the creative arts require a huge time commitment and therefore doing multiple subjects could be somewhat exhausting.

How much homework will my child get?

This varies from subject to subject somewhat.

Up to about 90 minutes per night.

Each subject sets homework once (maybe twice) a week.

Will my child complete coursework?

Increasingly fewer subjects have a coursework component however there are still some.

This can account for up to 60% of the course.

Please look at the options booklet for course-by-course information.

My child does the MEP – how does this work for GCSEs?

With the MEP, students are on an accelerated pathway for Mandarin. As a result, we attempt to have them in a specific class for GCSE. This is effectively a 'top set'.

Students who choose Mandarin but are not on the MEP are usually put in a group together to provide better support. These students also achieve exceptionally well.

How do you support students with specific SEND needs?

The staff at Beths always want to make sure we make the best decisions for our young people. In some cases, this means tailoring a curriculum to be more suitable for students with SEND. Please contact Mrs Blewett (K.BLEWETT@beths.bexley.sch.uk) directly to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Can you take more than 3 A levels (apart from those doing Further Maths)?

We do allow students to do 4 A levels outside of Further Maths (where they must do 2 additional A levels). However, we reserve this for students who attain top GCSE grades, usually well over an 8 average.

Very few universities offer based on 4 A levels so having 3 top grades is better than 4 good ones.

Is it possible to switch a subject if the student sees it is not for them?

We would certainly try, where possible, to accommodate last minute changes within the first couple of weeks.

Please do bear in mind that classes may have already been filled, so we cannot guarantee there will be space in the requested subject area, but we will endeavour to do our best.

Are Humanities compulsory or optional?

Can students study both?

Students are advised to study a humanity, although it is not compulsory.

Students can study both Geography and History should they wish.

Is RE compulsory?

RE is not compulsory. Much of the cultural and ethical content is covered within our PSHCE curriculum.

How many students do you need per subject to make it a viable course?

This is a difficult question to put a fixed number to and depends on several factors, however it is highly unlikely that a GCSE course would be considered on less than double figures.

Are there any restrictions to choices of A Level subjects if they have not been studied to GCSE Level?

Please see the Sixth Form Choices booklet via the attached link to check the requirements for each course (also on the next slide).

[Beths Grammar School - Year 12 Admissions](#)

Subject Entry Requirements 2024-2025 – A Level

Art & Design: Fine Art	Grade 6 in Art
Art & Design: Digital Photography	Grade 6 in Art or Photography
Biology	7 in Biology (or 7/7 Combined Science) and 6 in Maths
Business Studies	Grade 6 in Maths and English or 6 in Business Studies
Chemistry	Grade 7 in Chemistry or 7/7 in Combined Sciences
Chinese Mandarin	Grade 6 in Mandarin
Classical Civilisation	6 in English Literature or Language
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Maths or 6 in Computer Science
Design Technology	Grade 6 in Design Technology
Drama & Theatre Studies	Grade 6 in English
Economics	6 in Economics or Business Studies (or a 6 in English Literature or Language if not studied)
Electronics	Grade 7 in Maths and 6 in Physics or Combined Science 6/6 or 6 in Electronics
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Literature
Film Studies	Grade 6 in English or a humanities subject
French	Grade 6 in French
German	Grade 6 in German
Geography	Grade 6 in English or Geography
Government and Politics	Grade 6 in English or a humanities subject (except Geography)
History	Grade 6 in English and History
Law	Grade 6 in English
Maths	Grade 7 in Maths
Further Maths	Grade 8 in Maths
Music	Grade 6 in Music or 5 in ABRSM Practical and Theory
PE	Grade 6 in PE or Biology or Sociology or Psychology
Philosophy	6 in English or RS
Physics	Grade 7 in Maths and 7 in Physics or 7/7 in Combined Science
Psychology	6 in Psychology (or Grade 6 in English if not studied at GCSE) and Grade 6 in Biology (or 6/6 in Combined Science)
Religious Studies	6 in RS (or a 6 in English Literature or Language if RS not studied at GCSE)
Sociology	6 in Sociology (or 6 in English if Sociology not studied at GCSE)
Spanish	Grade 6 in Spanish

What do you need to do next?

- **Ensure that you have made FOUR choices plus a reserve.**
- **Discuss with your tutor/Head of Year.**
- **Speak to relevant Heads of Department/teachers if you've got questions.**
- **Message them on Teams or email (addresses on website)**
- **Complete the Options choices survey using the link in the Options booklet by 3pm on the 3rd May.**