

KS4 Courses Evening

On Course for Success

Mr A Robbins

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Monday 27th January 2025

Comparison with national data 2024

		% 7 +	% 4 +	% pass
St Bart's Total	2024	35.0	83.0	98.9
National Total		21.7	67.4	98.0
Residual		13.3	15.6	0.9

Making Choices

What am I good at?

What do I enjoy?

How do I learn best?

Am I good at exams?

Do I perform better in work assessed through the year?

Is the balance right for me?

Able to alter direction from Y9 choices.

Not about choosing a career....

Information

Information and guidance

Courses booklet

Online information: <https://www.stbarts.co.uk/learning-in-years-10-to-11/>

Assemblies: Subjects not studied at KS3; Key Stage 4 Extra courses

In lessons: Subject teachers

This evening - 27/01/25

Parents' evening - 12/02/24

GCSEs and BTECs

GCSEs

- All GCSE courses now have linear assessment. No GCSE exams will be taken earlier than May of 2026 by the current Year 9 students.
- There are a few GCSE courses which include some Non-Examined Assessment (NEA).
- For the most part, however, GCSEs are exam-based.

BTECs - Tech Awards (Level 2)

- Each vocational course is made up of a number of components, allowing students to build up their qualification in stages.
- Students are assessed through Pearson Set Assignments (PSAs) which are set twice a year and the final Component is assessed by an external 'exam'

Learning which is applied to 'real life' contexts:

e.g. sport or the health sector; activities such as research and team work on a project

Change in Assessment at KS4

► Summer 2016

- TOTAL NUMBER OF EXAMS - 13
- TOTAL EXAM LENGTH - 18¾ HRS
- YEAR 11 SUMMER EXAMS REPRESENT 49% OF TOTAL GCSE ASSESSMENT

► Summer 2019

- TOTAL NUMBER OF EXAMS - 22
- TOTAL EXAM LENGTH - 33½ HRS
- YEAR 11 SUMMER EXAMS REPRESENT 86.5% OF TOTAL GCSE ASSESSMENT



Grading of GCSEs and BTECs

BTEC Grade	Distinction *	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Level 1 Distinction	Level 1 Merit	Level 1 Pass
GCSE Comparative Grade	8.5	7	5.5	4	3	2	1.25

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate

GCSE 9-5 passes in:

- **English**
- **Maths**
- **Science x 2**
- **MFL**
- **History or Geography**

This measure is now calculated as an average score across the six subject areas.

Only a measure which is used by the Government in the information which they publish about schools. It is not a qualification in itself which students are required to have.

Slightly Differentiated Guides

- Core Skills: These three periods will focus on aspects of Literacy and Numeracy that will underpin and support students' work in English Language, Mathematics and other subjects across the curriculum. The programme is designed to help students to maximise the grades they achieve in these vital subjects while also developing work and life skills that will support them as they prepare for post-16 options.
- Core Skills Plus = Core Skills plus an additional lesson of targeted support

New Subjects

- Business Studies GCSE
- Citizenship Studies GCSE
- Film Studies GCSE
- Health & Social Care BTEC
- Graphic Communication GCSE
- Sport BTEC (alternative to PE GCSE)

Options



Please refer to the booklets that were sent out in 22/01/25.

Use the links to subject guides in booklets. Copies of the course guides are also available via the 'Learning' menu on the [website](#).

What's available

KS4 Standard Route

A Few Restrictions.

- *Please note that it is not possible to choose PE GCSE in either Group One or Group Two if you have also chosen Sport BTEC.*
- *Please note that it is not possible to choose 3D Design, Graphics or Textiles as your Group Two choice if you have chosen Fine Art as one of your choices in the previous section, as these subjects lead to the same GCSE qualification*
- *Please note that only students in sets 9 and 8/7 for Maths may select Computer Science as their Group Two choice.*

Extra complications!

No selection of 'Separate Science' or 'Further Maths' at this stage.

Latin is an option but not part of this main process.

The online process for submitting choices



Guidance will be sent out. Students need to follow the guidance carefully with supervision & support from parents and carers.

Changes are not always possible...



Wednesday 22 January

Key Stage 4 Courses Booklet distribution to parents students.

Monday, January 27th:

Options Evening for Parents in the School Hall

For details on timings, please refer to [the letter that was sent out on January 17th](#).

Wednesday February 12th:

Y9 Parents' Evening. This will provide an opportunity for parents to discuss a student's progress and discuss whether choosing certain subjects would be advised by their current teachers.

Thursday February 13th:

Online Option system opens. Instructions will be sent out.

Tuesday February 25th

Deadline for Completion of option choices (online).

Friday March 21st

Confirmation of Choices sent to all parents.

KS4 'Extra'

- [CCF – Army](#)
- [CCF – Navy](#)
- [CCF - RAF](#)

- [Fives](#)
- [Fitness](#)
- [Sports Leaders](#)
- [Living for Sport](#)

- [Dance Leaders](#)
- [Visual Arts Award](#)
- [Community Action](#)
- [Introduction to Social Science](#)

Contacts

Technical Issues relating to the online form:

Lucy Lezaic - llezaic@stbarts.co.uk

Any queries about subjects, contact details are in the Course Guides.

Any more general queries:

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<https://www.stbarts.co.uk/staff-list-with-contacts/#contactme>