



St Paul's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Ministerium Tuum Imple | Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

Year 8 Options Information Evening

February 2026



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Mission Statement

Ministerium Tuum Imple (2 Tim 4:5)

Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

St. Paul wrote these words to the disciple Timothy when he was in prison at the end of his life. He passed on his mission, as a follower of Jesus Christ, to Timothy and to us. We are called to be a community where Christ is present and is taken to others. We receive the gift of God's love and grace and share in His mission of following Christ's example by:

- Being a community in which our **LOVE** of God and **LOVE** of each other can be seen in everything we do;
- Using our gifts and talents to **SERVE** others, particularly those who are more vulnerable;
- Being determined to **DO THE BEST THAT IS POSSIBLE** in everything we do to enable us to fulfil our ministry.

Key Priorities For Our School

We will ensure that students:

- **Take responsibility for their own learning through thinking hard.**
- **Take responsibility for their own behaviour by making good decisions.**

The Holistic Curriculum at St. Paul's

The curriculum at St. Paul's is designed to ensure that students can:

- take responsibility for their own learning through thinking hard.
- take responsibility for their own behaviour by making good decisions.

Our Catholic Mission

The cornerstones of Pastoral care at St. Paul's enable:

- Christ to be firmly at the centre of everything we do and say.
- the preservation and promotion of human dignity through living by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the Gifts we Grow.
- people to fully live our mission in their lives beyond St. Paul's, taking their gifts and talents to others.

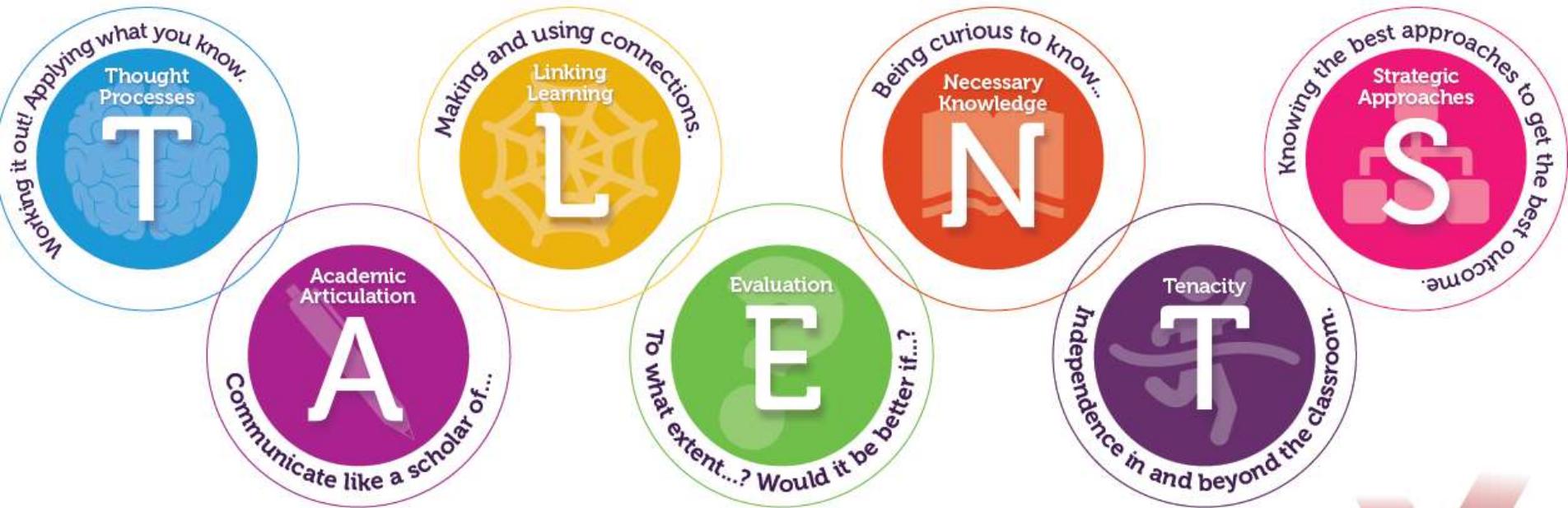
Academic Excellence

High expectations will be demonstrated through:

- the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum and enrichment experience.
- the commitment to the development of academic learning talents.
- the development of subject scholarship.
- the ability of students to articulate learning.

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Developing Thinking Hard with the Learning...



Academic Excellence means:

- the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum and enrichment experience.
- the commitment to the development of academic learning talents.
- the development of subject scholarship.
- the ability of students to articulate learning.

The Key Principles of the Options Process

- Students in Year 9 will continue to study a broad and balanced curriculum: RE, English, Maths, Sciences, MFL, Technology, History, Geography and Core PE
- Most students will eventually study 10 GCSEs
- Students will continue to study BOTH History and Geography until the end of Year 9
- Most students will continue to study a Modern Foreign Language until the end of Year 11

So why is Year 8 important?

In Year 8 students will have their first opportunity to make choices about their future studies.

They will take the big step of choosing a **preferred subject to study through to GCSE** and a further **Expressive Arts Option** they will study for one year only (the end of Year 9). They will also select their preferred **Technology** route too.

This process will start to mould their choices and future direction. It is a **guided choice** with teachers and parents all guiding and supporting children to make the most appropriate choices.

Students will get to choose one from each:

GCSE SUBJECT CHOICE (take through to end of Yr 11)	EXPRESSIVE ARTS OPTION CHOICE (1 Year course)
Art Drama Music Physical Education Business Studies Computer Science Separate Science Sociology	Art Drama Music Physical Education

In addition to this, children will also choose a Technology Specialism from:

- OCR GCSE Design and Technology
- QA Food Preparation and Nutrition
- OCR Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacturing

This choice will be handled and administered by the Design and Technology Department within their lessons. However, they are here tonight to help explain to you the different strands that exist, as well as student suitability for each.

Modelling How to Make Good Choices

- The process of choosing their preferred GCSE, Expressive Arts and Technology route is as important as the subject choice itself.
- It is the first time they will have done this: therefore, help is at hand.
- Please visit all the subject stands tonight. Ask questions and think about aptitudes, interests and skills.
- Speak with parents, teachers and our careers team who are also present this evening.
- Do not make biased decisions based on favourite teachers or what your friends pick.

NEXT STEPS.....

- Visit the subject stalls, gather information and discuss potential ideas.
- Appointments will then take place with members of the Leadership Group and Year 8 Pastoral team. Please book a slot to suite you at the available times between the **23rd February** and **13th March**. You can book these slots via **SchoolCloud**. Your son or daughter will also be present at this meeting too.
- SchoolCloud will be open for booking appointments from **9am tomorrow until 12pm on the 6th March**.
- At the meeting you will be asked to make your preferred choices for the GCSE subject and the Expressive Arts Choice.
- Technology choices will be made during lessons.

Await the outcome....

- Once we have all the preferences, we can start to build the timetable for next academic year and check if we have capacity to offer all students their first preferences.
- Last year we were successful in doing so.
- However, this is not always the case as some courses can become oversubscribed.
- Therefore, we ask you rank subjects 1st, 2nd, 3rd. It is possible that not everyone will get their first choice.
- You should hope to find out the outcome of your choices by May half term.