



The Priory School

Educating students for success in life

Post 14 Pathways Evening

14th March 2024



www.priory.herts.sch.uk



@TPS_Hitchin

Please Silence Your Mobile Phone



Welcome

Faye Nearney
Deputy Headteacher

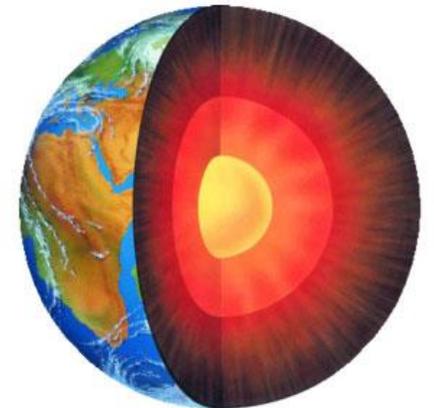


Learning Pathways

- Students allocated pathways based on previous data, targets and discussions with SENCO, Head of Year and Head of Key Stage 3.
- This is the pathway that we feel will give your son / daughter the greatest opportunity to succeed.

Core: Everyone Will Take

- English (literature & language)
- Maths
- Science (double or triple – as decided by The Science Department)
- **At least** one humanity (geography or history)
- Cultural Respect and Responsibility (CR&R)
- Core PE



Learning Pathway 1

- Students have bespoke timetable
- College/ work experience

Art GCSE	Health & Social Care BTEC	PG GCSE*
Creative Media Production BTEC	History GCSE	Performing Arts BTEC
Design and Technology GCSE	Media Studies GCSE	Philosophy & Ethics GCSE
Film Studies GCSE	Music Practice BTEC	Sport Studies OCR National
Food and Nutrition GCSE	Music* GCSE	Travel and Tourism BTEC

Learning Pathway 2

Students will have 3 additional subjects to take
Student take double or triple science

3 additional subjects		
Art GCSE	French GCSE	PE GCSE*
Business Studies GCSE	Health & Social Care BTEC	Philosophy & Ethics GCSE
Computer Science* GCSE	History GCSE	Psychology* GCSE
Creative Computing BTEC	Media Studies GCSE	Sociology* GCSE
Design and Technology GCSE	Music* GCSE	Spanish GCSE
Film Studies GCSE	Music Practice BTEC	Sport Studies OCR National
Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE		Travel and Tourism BTEC

Learning Pathway 3 (Ebacc)

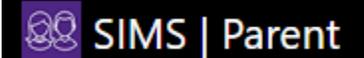
- All students study a language
- Students will have 2 additional subjects to take
- Students take double or triple science

2 additional subjects		
Art GCSE	Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE	PE GCSE*
Business Studies GCSE	Health & Social Care BTEC	Performing Arts BTEC
Computer Science* GCSE	History GCSE	Philosophy & Ethics GCSE
Creative Computing BTEC	Media Studies GCSE	Psychology* GCSE
Design and Technology GCSE	Music* GCSE	Sociology* GCSE
Film Studies GCSE	Music Practice BTEC	Sport Studies OCR National
		Travel and Tourism BTEC

Subjects With Additional Criteria

Subject	Criteria
Computer Science*	Target grade 5 in Maths
Sociology*	Target grade 4 in English
Psychology*	Target grade 5 in Science
PE GCSE*	Target grade 5 in Science
Music GCSE*	Minimum of grade 2 Music

Making Your Requests



- Requests are made via the SIMS app
- This will go live tomorrow
- If you wish to study both History and Geography, you need to choose Geography in the **Humanities** request box, and History in the subject request box
- You need to identify 4 subjects for Learning pathway 2, or 3 subjects for Learning Pathway 3
- Number them in order of preference
- The last one should be your reserve
- You can only pick one Design Technology subject, this includes Food and Nutrition
- Deadline is Thursday 28th March



▼ Pathway: 3

Humanity

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

Geography GCSE Full Course Choice	History GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in Pathway 3</small>
---	--

Language

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

French GCSE Full Course	Spanish GCSE Full Course Choice
--------------------------------	---

Pathway 3

You have chosen 2 of 2 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCSE Full Course Choice Reserve	Business GCSE Full Course Reserve	Computing GCSE Full Course Reserve
Enterprise BTEC BTEC Extended Certificate Level 2 Reserve	Food & Nutrition GCSE Full Course Reserve	Health and Social BTEC BTEC Certificate Level 2 Reserve
History GCSE Full Course Reserve <small>This course is also available in Humanity</small>	Creative Computing & Project Man BTEC Certificate Level 2 Reserve	Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Music GCSE Full Course Reserve Reserve	Performing Arts BTEC Extended Certificate Level 2 Reserve	Pe Gcse GCSE Full Course Reserve
Psychology GCSE Full Course Reserve	P&E GCSE Full Course Reserve	Sociology GCSE Full Course Choice Reserve
Design & Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve		

My Choices in Order of Preference

(Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Geography**
GCSE Full Course Humanity
- 2 Spanish**
GCSE Full Course Language
- 3 Art**
GCSE Full Course Pathway 3
- 4 Sociology**
GCSE Full Course Pathway 3

My Reserves in Order of Preference

(Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Music**
GCSE Full Course Pathway 3

Learning Pathways

- Within the pathways the subject requests are 'open' – they are not yet in blocks.
- Once students submit their requests (28th March) and once the interviews have taken place then we block the subjects.

Block A	Block B	Block C
Art GCSE	Art GCSE	Spanish
Computing GCSE	Computing GCSE	Business GCSE
French GCSE	Food and Nutrition GCSE	French GCSE
Food and Nutrition GCSE	Creative Computing NCFE	Health and Social Care BTEC
History GCSE	Music Practice BTEC	Media Studies GCSE

- We aim to maximise 'top 3' requests but some students will need to study their reserve subject.

Grade comparison

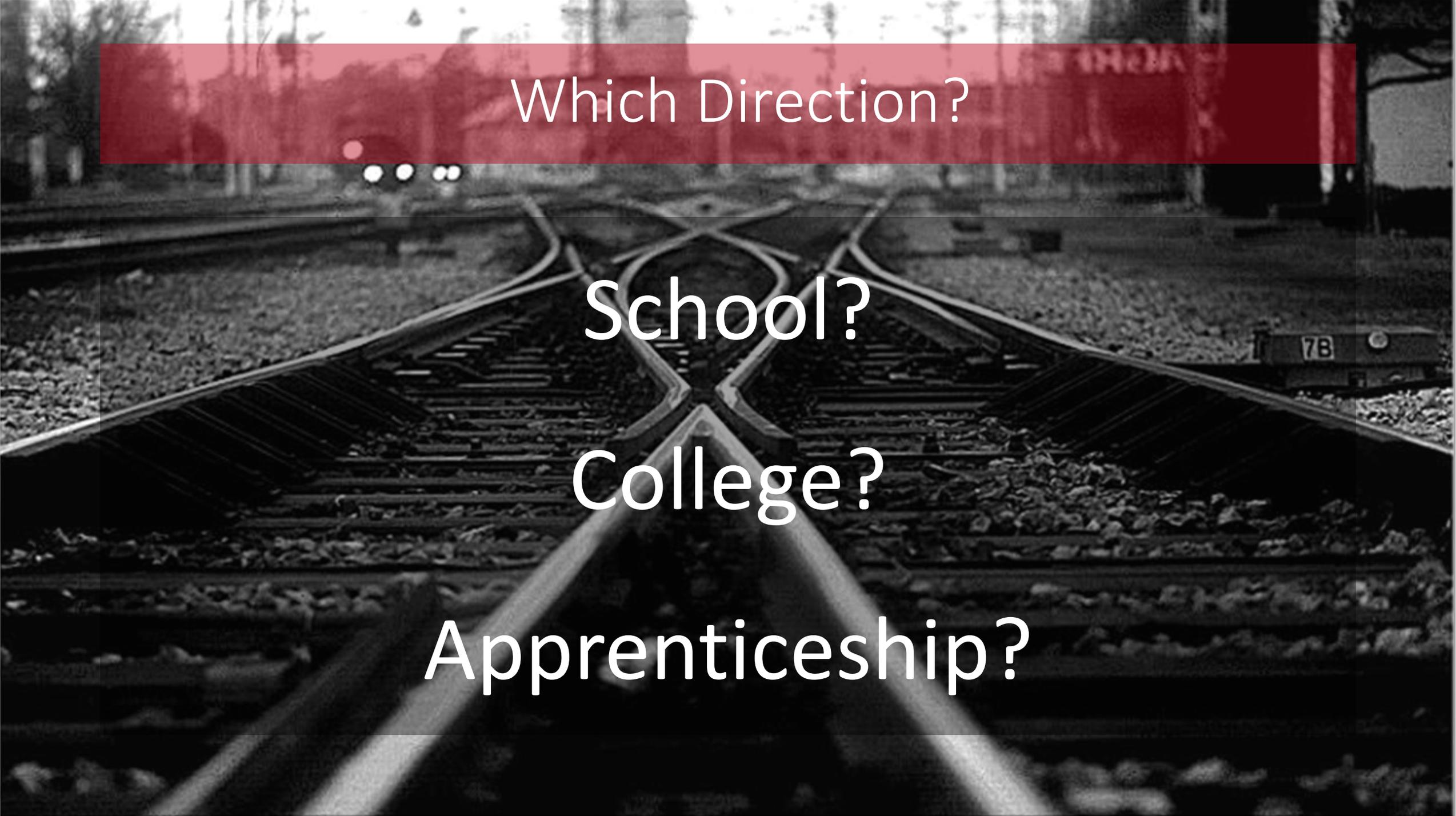
NEW GCSE
9
8
7
6
5 (Strong pass)
4 (Standard pass)
3
2
1
UNGRADED

OLD GCSEs
A*
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
UNGRADED

VOCATIONAL
DISTINCTION
MERIT
PASS
LEVEL 1 PASS
UNGRADED

Assessment

- GCSE subjects – all exams at the end of year 11.
- Students will need to return in September and be ready for the hard work ahead. They will be covering topics which may be only briefly revisited before their exams at the end of Year 11.
- Reading skills need to be good!
- OCR Nationals and BTEC Courses have an exam which accounts for 25 – 40% of the qualification. The remaining % is coursework.

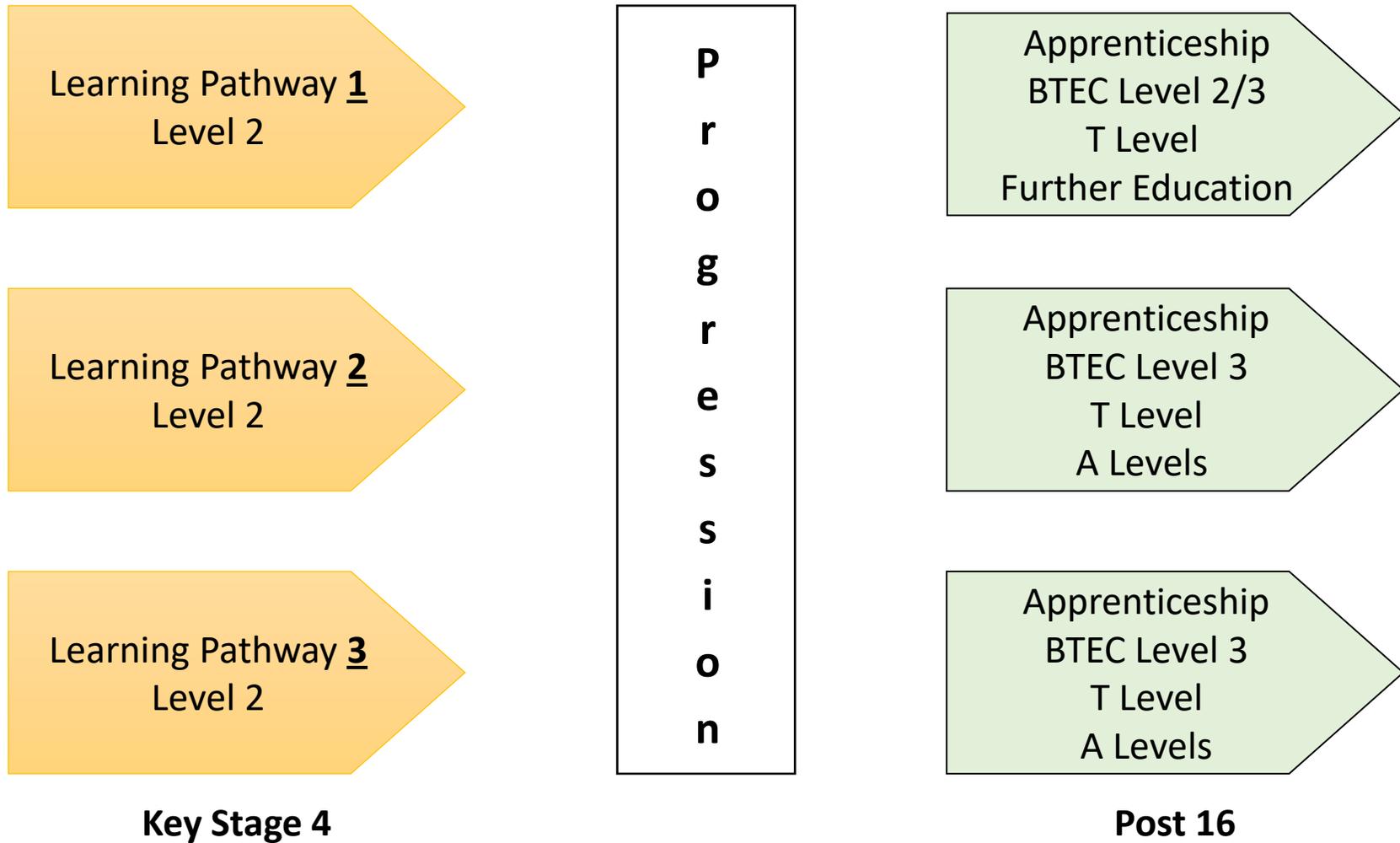


Which Direction?

School?

College?

Apprenticeship?



Employees and universities are looking for students to achieve the best grades they possibly can - pick what you enjoy and are good at!

6th Form Entry Requirements

- Standard entry requirement for the Hitchin Consortium is five Grade 9-4 GCSEs or equivalent including English and Maths at Grade 4 or above
- Some subjects will have additional entry requirements and all have a recommended GCSE Average Points Score (APS)
- The APS requirement means that it is important for students to perform well in all their KS4 subjects

FAQs

- **Will every subject currently on offer be available?**

- Whilst we try to ensure this, sometimes we have a change in staffing, or numbers are too low for a subject to run. Students will be spoken to about this if it happens and parents will receive a letter.
- Staffing constraints mean we can only offer one class for certain subjects. We may only be able to offer one business GCSE class.

Can I change my pathway?

- We have placed you on the pathway we feel offers you the best opportunity to succeed but appreciate that some students may want more flexibility in their choice. Email Mrs Nearney to change.

FAQs

- **Is it true that GCSEs are better than BTECs**
 - No. We offer highly regarded courses which have been approved by OFQUAL and Department for Education.

FAQs

How will students be assigned to the combined science or triple science course?

Students will be assigned to sets at the end of Year 9 and the top set(s) will follow the triple science course. All other students will follow the combined science course. Setting will be based on performance to date (KS2 and KS3) and assessments in the second half of Year 9 on the GCSE work they are studying. We also take into account students' maths and English ability and their attitude and work in lessons.

Why does the school decide rather than making triple science an option?

The triple science course is fast-paced (50% more content in the same number of lessons) and demanding (some of the extra content is bridging into A-level work). We need to make sure that students are on the course in which they have the best opportunity to succeed.

GCSE Science

- All students will take GCSE science qualifications and will study biology, chemistry and physics.
- Students will be taught in sets and will have 10 lessons of science per fortnight.
- Students have already started their GCSE science courses and will have completed some elements of each subject by the end of Year 9.

Combined Science

Students taking the combined science course will gain a double award GCSE in science, which will consist of elements of all three sciences.

Triple Science

Students taking the triple science course will gain three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. This will involve 50% more content than the combined science course.

Edexcel Level 3 Algebra Award

- For those students in Set 1 we offer the Algebra Award, a standalone qualification which helps support students aiming for Grade 8 or 9
- There is a significant overlap with GCSE Algebra topics, this allows for more practice and revision for this course which will directly support their revision.
- Level 3 algebra will help bridge the gap between GCSE and A-level. For those not intending to study A-level mathematics, it gives a deeper understanding of the higher GCSE algebra topics.
- The award is worth 7 UCAS points which would support any further education application
- Assessed with one non-calculator exam, this is a Pass/ Fail exam.

Thank You

Please make your way through to the
cafe



The Priory School

Educating students for success in life

Post 14 Pathways Evening

14th March 2024



www.priory.herts.sch.uk



@TPS_Hitchin