



1. What is KS3/KS4?

Key Stage 3 (commonly abbreviated as KS3) is the legal term for the three years of schooling in maintained schools in England and Wales normally known as Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9, when pupils are aged between 11 and 14.

Key Stage 4 is the legal term for the two years of school education which incorporate GCSEs, and other examinations, in maintained schools in England normally known as Year 10 and Year 11, when pupils are aged between 14 and 16. (In some schools, KS4 work is started in Year 9.)

You can view the school curriculum for KS3 and KS4 here <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/school-curriculum/>.

2. What is Progress 8?

Progress 8 is a new measure of school performance. It replaces the previous measure of 5A*-C including English and maths, and shows how well pupils of all abilities have progressed, compared to pupils with similar academic starting points in other schools.

Click [here](#) to view a short educational video on Progress 8.

In addition to Progress 8 a key headline measure is the Basics Measure. The Basics Measure shows the percentage of students who achieve a grade 4+ in Maths and English and a grade 5+ in Maths and English. A grade 4 is considered a standard pass and a grade 5 a strong pass.

3. How is my child assessed?

Please visit our Data Check and Assessment page (previously called STARS) to see how we assess your child in school, you will also find a useful link there regarding GCSE grades <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/data-check-and-assessment/>

4. What is the EBacc and do I need it?

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
- maths
- the sciences
- geography or history
- a language

The DfE says that the English Baccalaureate – though not a qualification in itself – is a measure of success in core academic subjects; specifically English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language.

These are subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most doors open. The English Bac aims to reverse the long-term drift away from students taking the likes of history, geography, French, Spanish and other modern languages.

Universities will be most likely to look for [specific GCSE grades in English, maths and possibly science](#) – but these subjects are compulsory for you to take anyway.

It's up to you to decide whether to take one or more of the optional subjects. On the plus side, taking a mix of these will ensure you can be more flexible in your university course choices later down the line – especially if you're not sure what you want to do yet.

But if you feel you're weaker in these subjects, don't feel that you *must* take them in order to go to university.

For more information visit these links:

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

<https://independenteducationconsultants.co.uk/what-is-the-english-baccalaureate>

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