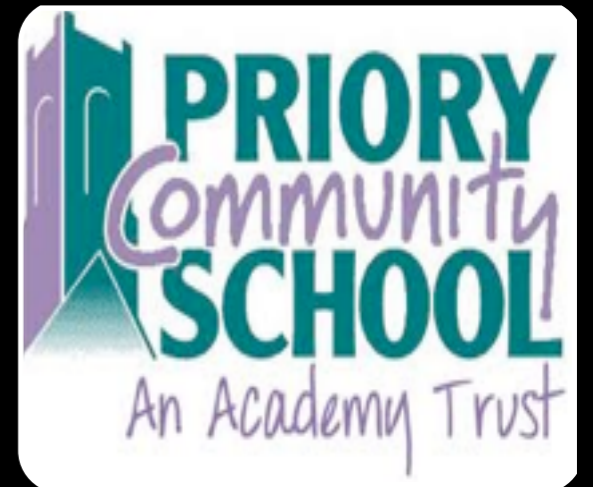


# PREFERENCES 2014



## Key Dates

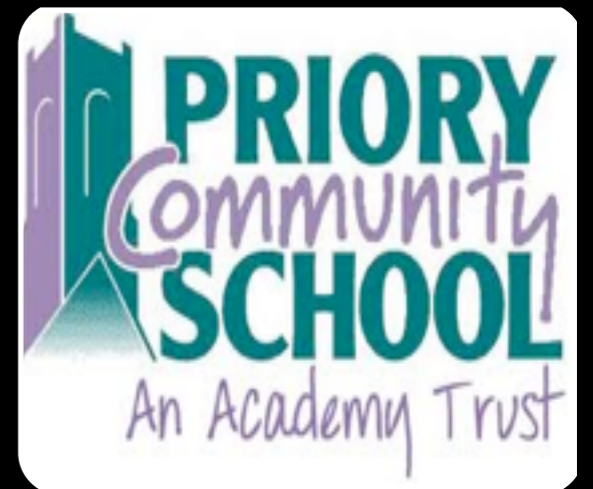
**28 January 2014 - Preferences Assembly**

**28 Jan - 27 Feb - IAG Meetings with Tutors**

**27 February 2014 - Preferences Evening 6pm to 8pm**

**7 March 2014 - DEADLINE for returning preferences form**

# PREFERENCES 2014



## The National Picture

### Progress 8:

To encourage all students to follow a broad curriculum the performance of schools from 2016 will be judged on the progress students make in 8 subjects - including at least 5 EBacc subjects.

### Reformed GCSEs

The first reformed GCSEs will be in Maths, English Language and English Literature. Students will sit reformed GCSE exams in these subjects in 2017 - affects current Year 8.

### Reformed BTECs

All BTEC courses now include 25% external assessment.

### First Entry Only:

To discourage re-sits: where students have more than one attempt at an exam only the first entry can be counted towards a school's performance measures.

### Assessment Changes

Linear exams and SPAG.

# THE PCSA CURRICULUM

## Three Year Upper School

**YEAR 9**

**YEAR 10**

**YEAR 11**

**Core Curriculum**

**English Language, English Literature, Maths,  
Science, PE, Ethics and Philosophy**

**EBacc  
Curriculum**

2 Preferences (2 Hours Weekly)

**GCSE: French, Spanish, History,  
Geography, Computing, EBacc Booster**

**Personalised  
Curriculum**

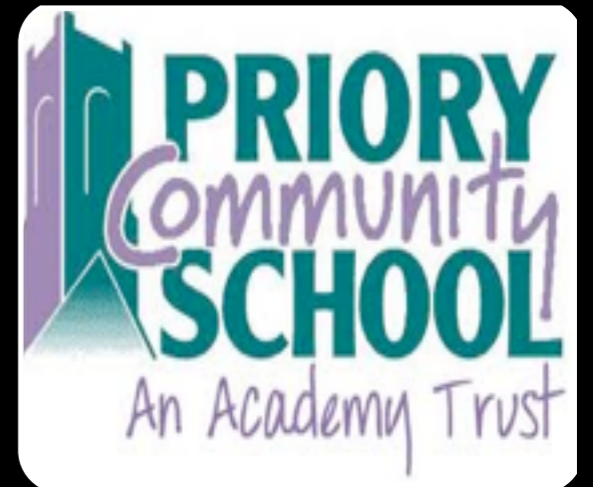
2 Preferences (3 Hours Weekly)

English / Maths Booster  
BTEC (Level 1): Caring, Construction  
BTEC (Level 2): Art, Business Studies, Engineering, Music,  
Performing Arts. OCR National (Level 2): Sports Studies  
GCSE: Child Dev, ICT , Design Technology, Media Studies,  
Photography, Sociology,  
*Triple Science\**

1 Preference (5 hours weekly)  
Provisional Offer

EM Success Group, Work Experience,  
GCSE: Design Technology, French,  
German, History, Computing,  
Geography, PE  
BTEC Art and Design, Performing Arts  
AS Level: Critical Thinking, English  
BTEC (Level 3): Creative Arts

# PREFERENCES 2014



## The English Baccalaureate

All students study English, Maths and Science as part of the Core Curriculum.

Students must choose two additional courses from the EBacc Curriculum.

The EBacc COMBINATION of subjects is not compulsory at PCSA.

GCSE Science – Core + Additional or Triple

GCSE English Language

GCSE Maths

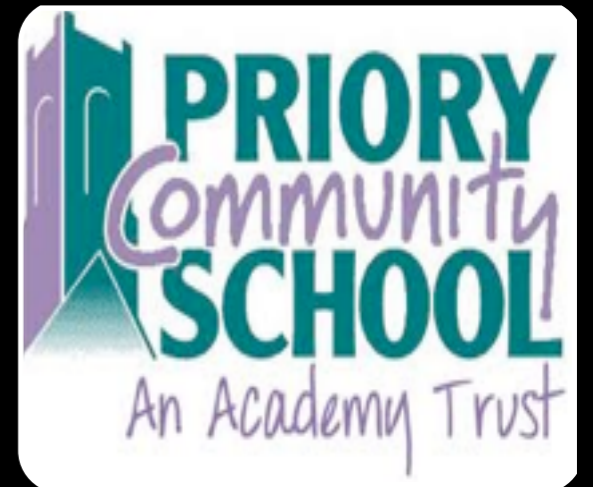
GCSE History or Geography

GCSE French or Spanish

Triple  
Science



# PREFERENCES 2014



## The Core Curriculum

GCSE English Language and Literature

GCSE Maths

GCSE Sciences

GCSE Ethics and Philosophy

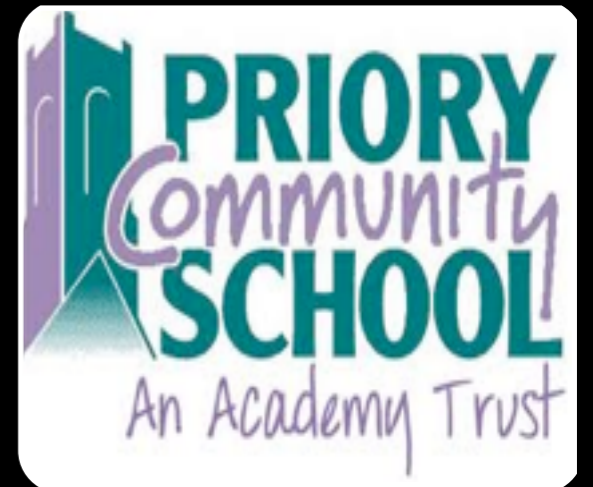
PE

Some important themes are taught as cross-curricular subjects including:

Personal, Social, Careers and Health Education (PSCHE)

Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)

# PREFERENCES 2014



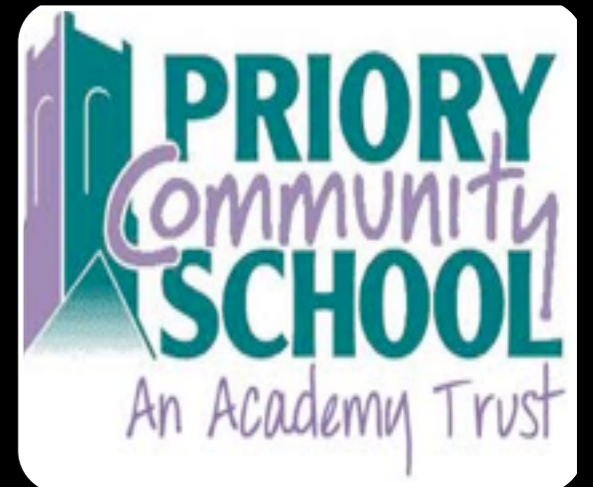
## Types of Courses

**GCSE** – Traditional academic focus. Largely exam based but usually includes some controlled assessment.

**BTEC** – Vocational focus. Continuous assessment throughout the course with 25% external assessment.

**OCR Cambridge National** – Vocational focus. Like BTEC, the majority of assessment is continuous assessment.

# PREFERENCES 2014



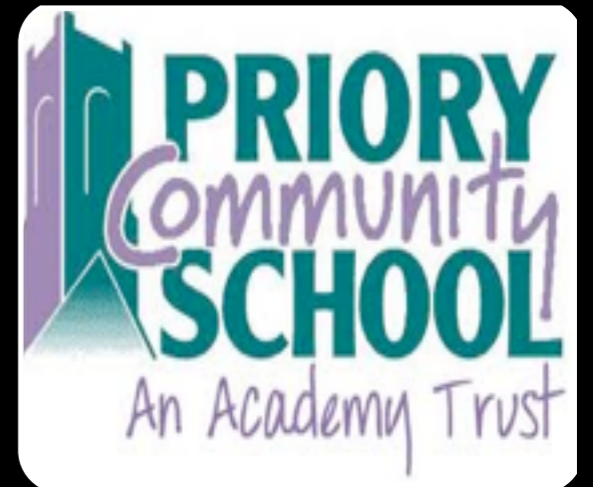
## Levels of Challenge

Level 1 courses are equivalent to GCSE grades D–G.

Level 2 courses are equivalent to GCSE grades A\*–C.

Level 3 courses are A Levels and equivalent courses (and only available in Year 11 at PCSA).

# PREFERENCES 2014



## Level 1 and Support Courses

**BTEC Caring for Children** – This is an extremely practical course with opportunities to gain regular practical experience.

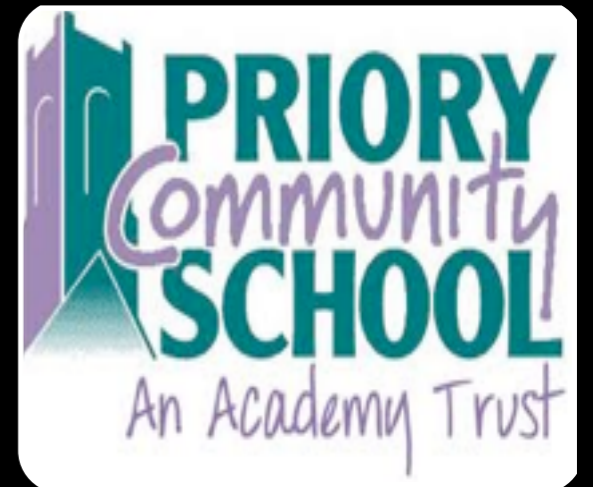
**BTEC Construction** – This course provides a stepping stone into employment in the construction industry.

**English / Maths Booster** – A fantastic opportunity to boost English and Maths achievement by providing additional time and support.

**EBacc Booster** – This course will allow you additional time and support with your EBacc preference course.



# PREFERENCES 2014



## GCSE Courses

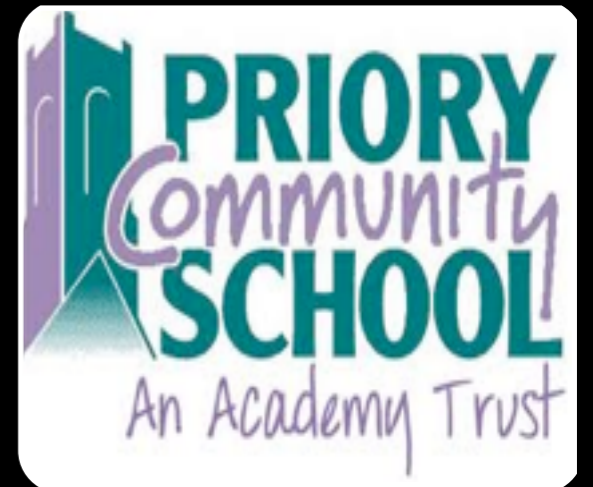
### EBACC Courses

Computing  
French  
Geography  
History  
Spanish

### Other GCSE Courses

Child Development  
DT Catering  
DT Product Design  
ICT  
Media Studies  
Photography  
Sociology  
Triple Science\*

# PREFERENCES 2014



## Level 2 Vocational Courses

### **BTEC**

Art and Design

Business Studies

Engineering

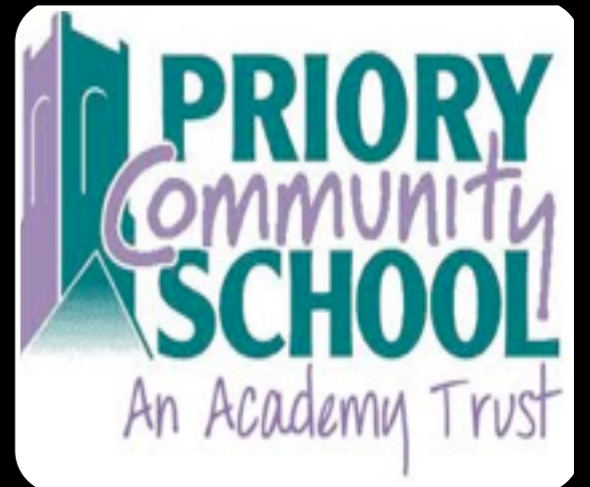
Music

Performing Arts (Drama)

### **OCR Cambridge Nationals**

Sports Studies

# PREFERENCES 2014

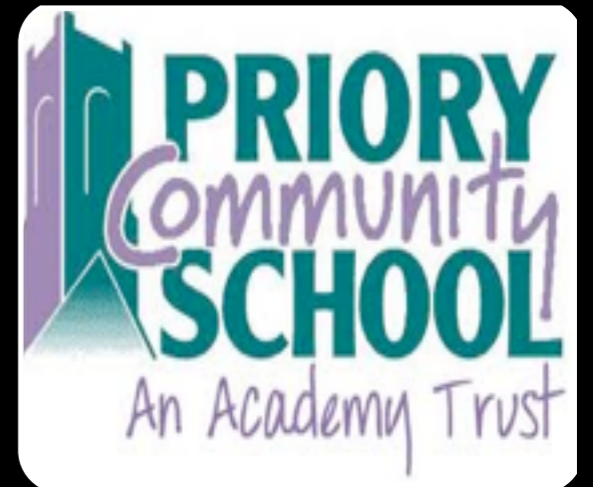


## Important Information

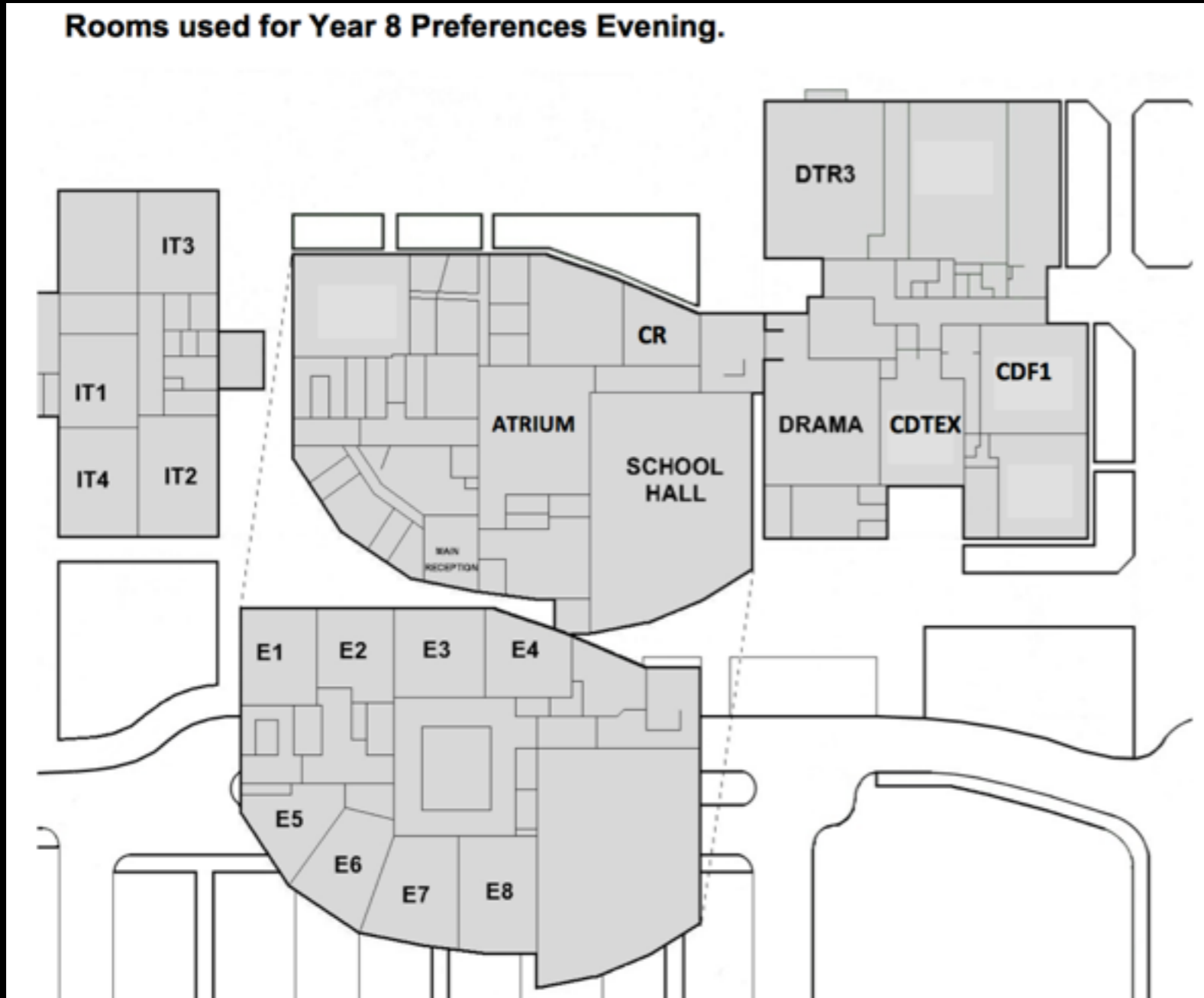
Choose two EBacc subjects.  
Choose four Personalised Curriculum courses in order of preference (you will be allocated two).  
Ensure your form is signed by your parent / carer.  
Choose subjects you will do well in and enjoy.  
Consider your future after the age of 16.  
Talk to parents / carers, teachers and tutors.

**Choose wisely: We can not guarantee that students can change courses in Year 9.**

# PREFERENCES 2014



Rooms used for Year 8 Preferences Evening.



Please see the handout for rooms in use this evening.