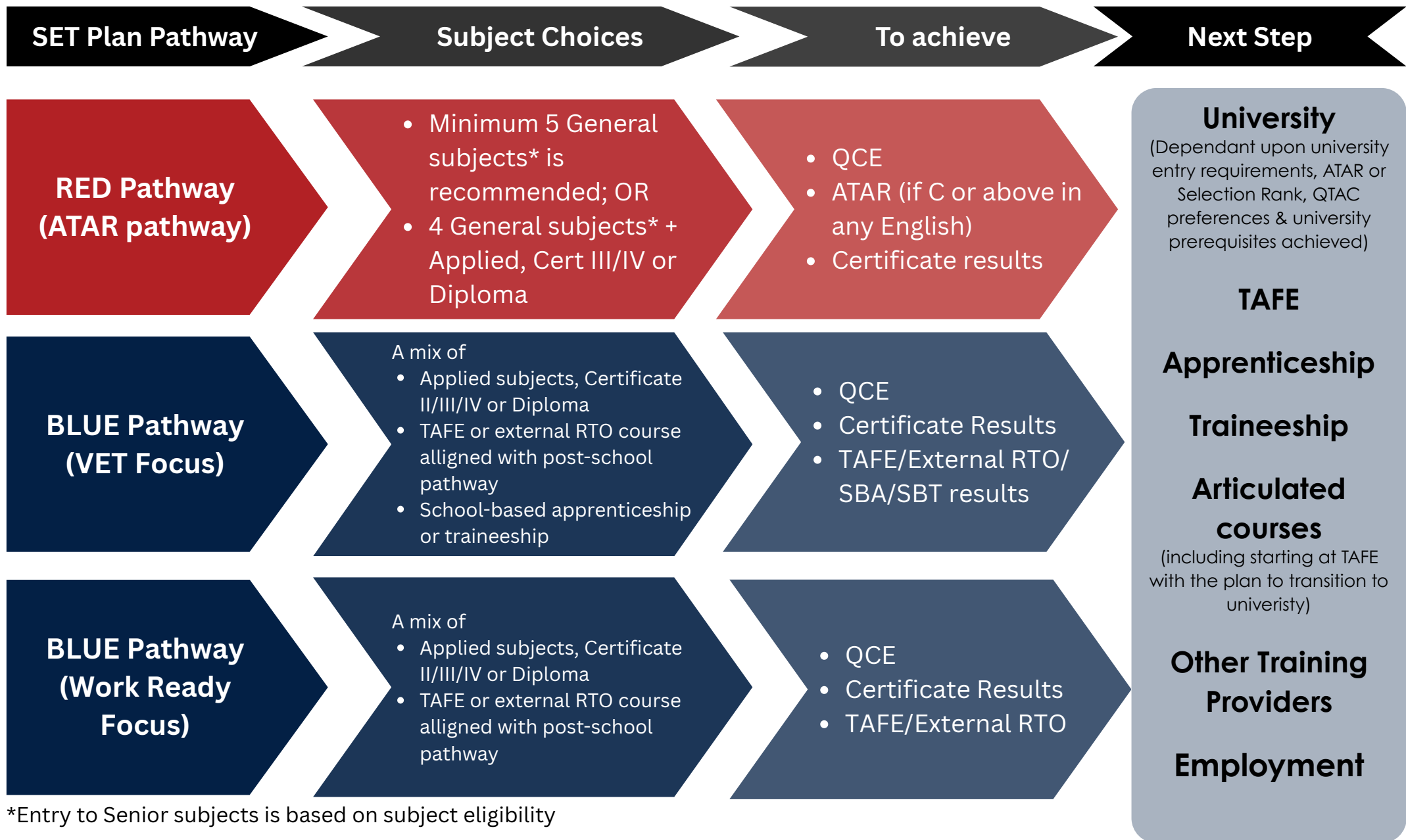




Rochedale State High School

SET Plan Parent Guide

Senior School Pathways



*Entry to Senior subjects is based on subject eligibility

Options post school

There are far more post school pathways available now than there were when parents were at school.

Types of pathways

Rosedale SHS has pathways to ensure students have a variety of options post school;

- **RED** pathway - traditional route for an ATAR and university entry
- **BLUE** pathway - designed for students who wish to pursue employment, tertiary study or are still exploring options. This also includes students who wish to gain a qualification while at school in order to gain employment post schooling

RED pathway (ATAR focus)

- To achieve success on this pathway, students must be ATAR eligible
- Highly recommended that students select a minimum of 5 General subjects to achieve their highest possible ATAR
- Students can also be ATAR eligible by selecting 4 General subjects with an Applied Subject OR Certificate III/IV however, historically this has resulted in lower ATARs
- Students will also gain their QCE

Blue Pathway (VET focus)

- This pathway is suitable for students who aim to combine learning with practical skills
- Students can prepare for specific trades providing direct route to apprenticeships and/or further training OR pursue employment and on-the-job training through traineeships and/or future training
- Students undertake Applied subjects combined with certificate courses either available at school or through TAFE, school-based apprenticeship/traineeship
- Students will also gain their QCE

Blue pathway (Work ready focus)

- Students on this pathway plan to enter the workforce directly after completing their senior schooling
- This pathway includes a combination of Applied subjects, and can include certificate courses
- Upon completion of school students may wish to enrol in TAFE or other vocational tertiary institutions to further enhance employability
- Students will work towards attaining their QCE

The best pathway is the one that suits the needs & ability of the student.

How parents can support student decisions

The role of parents is vital in guiding students to make the best choices for their future

Working with teachers

- Your child's teachers know them best in each subject. They understand your child's strengths and what they need to improve.
- Parent Teacher interviews are very important. They help you learn this information and work together with the school.
- Students should also attend these evenings so everyone can work as a team.
- Make sure you go to Senior School information evenings and engage in the information shared.

Discussions at home

- Ask questions like: "Which subjects do you enjoy most?", "Where do you feel most confident?", and "Do you like practical or theory-based learning?"
- Look at report cards together and talk honestly about strengths, effort, and behaviour. Also discuss what could be improved.
- Talk about workload and balance. Help your child to determine if anything needs to change.
- Explore future options by going to open days and talking to family and friends about different jobs and careers.

Reassure & Reduce Anxiety

Students often feel pressure to "get it right." It's important to remind them that there are many different pathways to success and more than one way to reach their goals.

Students should understand that the subjects they choose in Senior school do not decide their whole future. They can always change direction later on.

Striking the right balance

The best way for parents to help is to support their child, not control them. Give helpful information, but don't make the decisions for them. Ask questions and be interested, rather than judging their choices.

Selecting Senior Subjects

What are the most important things to consider when selecting senior subjects?

Strengths and Interests

- Students should think about the subjects they enjoy, what they do well in, and the skills they are naturally good at.
- Curriculum content gets much harder in Year 11 and 12. If students choose subjects they like and are good at, they are more likely to stay motivated and put in the effort needed to succeed.

Align to pathway

- Students should choose subjects that match their future goals and career plans.
- During SET Planning, students will explore different careers. This helps them feel more confident about their subject choices.
- It's also important to pick subjects that keep options open, in case plans change or they want to try a different pathway later.

Understand subject prerequisites

- Some senior subjects have entry prerequisites based on Year 10 results. Students need to meet these to choose the subject in Year 11.
- These prerequisites are there because the subjects need strong background knowledge. They also have higher commitment to study and harder assessments.
- Meeting the prerequisites means students are more likely to succeed in the subject.
- In Senior General subjects, "Bs" are the new "Cs". Students must ensure they are set up for success through meeting subject prerequisites.

Be a sounding board, not a decision maker

- Talk with your child in a way that helps them take responsibility for their choices.
- Ask questions like: "How does this fit your goals?", "What do you enjoy about this subject?", and "Are you ready to put in the work?"
- These questions can help start good conversations and support students to make their own decisions.

QCE Simplified

Essential Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) information for parents and students

What is QCE?

The **Queensland Certificate of Education** (QCE) is the certificate students receive at the end of Year 12 which is awarded by Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (QCAA). The QCE is awarded to all students who successfully complete their senior schooling.

How a QCE is awarded

Students need to achieve **20 credits** over Years 11 and 12. They earn credits by completing;

- School subjects (General or Applied)
- VET courses (e.g. Certificates II or higher)
- Other recognised learning (e.g. School-based traineeship)
- **LITERACY & NUMERACY** - Students must pass a Unit of English and Maths
- **CORE** - A minimum of 12 points must come from combination of subjects studied from start to finish
- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY** - Successful completion of QCAA Academic Integrity Course

What does all this mean?

Students need to select their subjects carefully to make sure they are selecting subjects they are **interested** in, and that align to their **strengths**! In doing this students are more likely to engage with the work and put in higher levels of effort.

ATAR Simplified

The ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) is a number that shows how a student performed compared to all other Year 12 students in Queensland.

What ATAR actually is

- ATAR is not a mark and it is not a percentage
- It is a ranking of all eligible students in Queensland between 0.00 and 99.95 and is awarded by QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre)

What is an ATAR used for

- ATAR is used for university entry processes
- The ATAR cut-offs for courses are determined by supply and demand
- A higher ATAR increases eligibility for university entry, but is not the only pathway
- A useful ATAR is the ATAR that is required to gain entry into a student's desired degree
- Previous ATAR publications can be used to help guide students about required ATAR

ATAR eligibility

To be eligible for an ATAR in QLD students must;

- Study the required combination of subjects (5 General subjects, OR 4 General subjects + 1 Applied subject, OR 4 General subjects + Certificate III or higher VET course)
- Complete Unit 3 & 4 in those subjects
- Achieve at least a C standard in any QCAA English subject

How it is calculated

- An eligible student's ATAR is based on their results in Year 12, Unit 3 & 4 (internal assessments + external exams)
- Students receive raw scores from their studies, that are then scaled by QTAC to fairly compare subjects

Key points to note

- Subject choice matters - subjects should be selected based on **interest**, **strengths** and future options. History shows students perform better in subjects that they are interested in.
- Students are encouraged to study at least 5 General subjects to give them the best chance of achieving a useful ATAR
- ATAR is not everything. Many universities offer alternative entry pathways. Students can still succeed through TAFE, bridging programs or later applications.

Scaling myths debunked

Students often select a subject due to how it scales, thinking it will help achieve a higher ATAR. This is fraught with danger!

MYTH 1 - Some subjects automatically give you a higher ATAR

TRUTH: There are no “bonus points” for picking a subject just because people think it is harder. Each student’s ATAR is based on their final results and how they compare to other students across Queensland.

High-achieving students often choose subjects like Specialist Maths, Maths Methods, Physics and Chemistry. As many strong students pick these subjects, the average score is often very high. To do well with respect to scaling, students need to score higher than the median (middle score) for the subject to scale positively.

Example: In Queensland in 2025, the median score for Chemistry was 85 out of 100. If a student scored below 85, their result could be scaled down, which could lower their ATAR.

MYTH 2 - Choosing harder subjects guarantees a better ATAR

TRUTH: If a student finds a subject really hard, they will usually get lower marks. This can lower their ATAR.

Doing well in any subject is better than doing poorly in a “hard” subject. It is much better to choose subjects students understand and can succeed in, rather than ones students struggle with.

Key Insights

- Students should focus on choosing subjects where they have demonstrated high ability, more motivated, engaged and enjoy.
- **Interest + effort = better results**
- There are always multiple ways to get to a student’s intended final destination

The reality of grades & scaling

Putting scaling into action and seeing the impacts it can have on student outcomes.

Key takeaway

Studying perceived 'harder subjects' does NOT guarantee a high ATAR.

In Senior, "Bs" are the new "Cs". In order for grades to result in ATARs aligned with student desires, Bs need to be the minimum grades achieved to be in line or above the median for the state cohort.

This means that students need to ensure they are selecting subjects that they are **interested** in and that play to their **strengths**.

EXAMPLE

Student A performed well in Year 10, receiving the following grades;

English - B
Maths - B
Science - B
Business & Accounting - B
Design Pathways - B
Digital Technologies - B

In Year 12, the student achieved the following raw scores out of 100;

General English - 60 (C)
General Maths - 67 (C)
Biology - 74 (B)
Chemistry - 71 (C)
Physics - 74 (C)
Economics - 56 (C)

QTAC outcome

Student did not get into first preference however, received an offer for a lower preference degree.

Scaling

After scaling by QTAC, the student was awarded the following scaled scores out of 100;

General English - 38.7
General Maths - 43
Biology - 54
Chemistry - 63
Physics - 74
Economics - 41

ATAR awarded

Based on the scaled scores the student was awarded an ATAR of 66.75.

Remember an ATAR is calculated from a student's top 5 scaled scores & their relative position in the state wide cohort.

VET Studies

Vocational Education & Training (VET) can form part of Year 11 and 12 studies

What VET looks like

- Students learn through hands-on activities and knowledge assessments
- Courses are linked to real industries like business, trades, health, and hospitality
- Often includes workplace experience or training

What students get

- A nationally recognised qualification (e.g. Certificate II or III)
- Skills they can use to go straight into work or further training
- In some cases, it can also contribute to their ATAR (Certificate III or higher)

Why it's valuable

Undertaking a VET pathway or VET course;

- Builds confidence and real-world skills
- Helps students who prefer practical learning
- Opens up pathways to TAFE, apprenticeships, or employment

How VET is offered

- Students wishing to undertake a VET pathway can do so by;
 - selecting from the range VET courses offered at school
 - enrolling in a course through TAFE @ School or other Registered Training Organisations (RTO)
 - securing a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SAT) in their chosen industry

VETiS Funding

- Each student is allocated funding from the QLD Government that can only be used once in high school
- VETiS funding is only available for eligible courses set by the QLD Government
- If a student undertakes 2 VETiS eligible courses, the student is required to pay for one course out of pocket

VET Study Parameters

- Students undertaking a RED (ATAR) Pathway are unable to attend off-campus VET offerings due to the rigour & commitments required to experience success on this pathway