

December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 9 GCSE Option Process

January sees the start of the Year 9 GCSE choices process and I am writing to inform you of some key dates relating to this.

Friday 7th January: All Year 9 students have an Options Assembly

Tuesday 11th January: Year 9 Parents Options Information Presentation, hosted on the website.

During their Options Assembly, students will receive an Option Booklet that describes the different GCSE subjects available. This will be a useful guide in your discussions at home about which GCSE subjects your child should take. If students and parents wish to look at this booklet before the assembly it is also available on the school website.

In the recorded Year 9 Parents Options Information Presentation available from Tuesday 11th January, we will go through the process for parents/carers and provide further information regarding the GCSE options and how to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum for your child. This is therefore a very important presentation and we have opted to have it online so that you can revisit the information as often as you need.

In the weeks following the Parents Option Information Presentation, each student will have an individual guidance meeting with a senior member of staff. In January, students will be completing a personal profile form during tutorial prior to the guidance meetings to help guide these discussions. At this meeting, the student's personal profile will be discussed and the GCSE options they are considering. This discussion will result in an electronic form being filled in, the results of which will be sent to parents to confirm choices. This will offer parents and students a chance to have a further discussion about the options before the choices are finalised.

The guiding principle of our process is finding the most appropriate route through Key Stage 4 for each child to give them the best chance of success at 16. Our guidance meeting will focus on the student's interests, current level of achievement, long term ideas about careers and the way they like to learn.

We welcome conversations with parents/carers during the process and will do our best to answer queries quickly. However, with a large year group, we ask for your patience if some research is required before we can respond. At each stage in the process you will be kept informed. Do not hesitate to contact Matthew Bland, Head of Year, with any queries.

We look forward to helping you and your child through the GCSE Option Process.

Yours faithfully,



Steve Wilson
Headteacher