



Headteacher
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the opportunity to succeed

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13th November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 9 Options

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming options process. Very soon students in Year 9 will be making choices about the subjects that they wish to study in Key Stage 4. I'm sure you will agree that this is a very important set of decisions that will heavily influence the direction of their education.

On **Monday 20th November 2017**, Year 9 students will receive an introduction to the options process that is designed to get them thinking about their possible options choices. After the introduction we will also provide each student with an options booklet, that will provide more detailed information about each course we offer in KS4.

I would like to invite parents to an information evening on **Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7pm** in the School Hall. This evening will give you the information you need to support your son/daughter in making good subject choices. The subjects we offer and the information we provide has changed from previous years so we recommend that parents attend even if they have been through this process with older siblings. Students are welcome to attend although the evening is aimed at parents, students will have received the same information in their introduction earlier in the week.

In December, students will be asked to make an initial options choice. All students must study English Language, English Literature, maths and science. Students will also need to study a subject from the following group, that is made up of geography, history, computer science, German, Spanish, French and triple science. In addition, the students will need to select a further three option subjects that they wish to study in KS4 in order of preference. They must also select a couple of reserve subjects, as these may be used where it is not possible to offer the students all of their first choices. We believe this is the correct academic path for the majority of our students. However, we do acknowledge that for a minority of our students, not all of these subjects may be appropriate. We will be in contact with you before the information evening if we feel this is the case for your son/daughter. If however, you are not contacted before the evening and are concerned about the impact this choice may have on your son/daughter, please contact me at school following the information evening on **Thursday 23rd November 2017**.

While students will be free to change their minds at this stage, it is important that they do put a good deal of thought into their options, as we will use the student's' initial choices to design the option blocks that will underpin our timetable for the next academic year. The second part of this process takes place in **January 2018** and includes the Year 9 subject evening. The second phase of the process will be explained in more depth at the information evening and in the options booklet. The students will be asked to make their final choices by **Wednesday 31st January 2018**.

Please spend some time discussing the options with your son/daughter and encourage them to speak to their subject teachers, older siblings and friends who have already gone through the process. Please note, any choices made now will not be the final choices but I would ask that this process is taken seriously so that we can ensure the final option blocks allow your son or daughter to study the subjects that are most appropriate to them. I have listed the key option dates at the end of this letter. Please contact me at school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Dexter
Assistant Headteacher



Would you prefer to receive your letters by Email? If so, please notify the school and provide us with your Email address

Key Dates

Monday 20th November 2017	Student Options Assembly
Thursday 23rd November 2017 7pm	Parents Information Evening
Wednesday 29th November 2017	KS4 only subject assembly
Monday 4th December 2017	Initial options window opens
Thursday 14th December 2017	Initial options choices deadline
Tuesday 9th January 2018	Second Options Assembly
Wednesday 10th January 2018	Final Options Form Issued
Thursday 18th January 2018	Year 9 Subject Evening
Wednesday 31st January	Final option choices deadline

These dates are for all students and parents. However, if you feel you need some further guidance then please contact Mr A Dexter at school and we will arrange any help or support that is required.



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