



# GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave • Garstang • Lancashire • PR3 1YE • Tel: 01995 603226  
Email: [info@garstangcommunityacademy.com](mailto:info@garstangcommunityacademy.com)

Dear Parent/carer,

Since returning in September we have been constantly assessing the knowledge, skills and needs of our year 9 students. Subjects leaders and senior leaders have been meeting fortnightly to review the 'return curriculum' and discuss the 'readiness' for this cohort to begin Key Stage 4. Following these in-depth consultations, we, as a school, have made the following decisions:

- Year 9 will begin Key Stage 4 when they return to school in January 2021. This will give them 2 years and 2 terms to complete a 'knowledge rich' curriculum resulting in the attainment of 9 GCSE or equivalent qualifications for the vast majority of students. We passionately feel that this extended Key Stage 4 time will be of great advantage to our students studying the 9-1 GCSE specifications. The 'setting' for the core subjects will be reviewed by the end of this term and therefore, from January 2021, students will have a brand-new timetable.
- We have deliberately over-staffed the core subjects this year in order to dedicate additional curriculum time to these areas. It is our duty to ensure that our students have excellent provision in the in the core subjects as no matter which pathway they choose in the future, Maths, English and Science qualifications will always be an essential requirement. Therefore, we are increasing the curriculum time for each of these subjects.
- Students will be able to select three other subjects to study at key stage 4 within some guided parameters to ensure they are studying a broad and balanced curriculum that reflects their academic ability and doesn't narrow their future pathways.
- The science curriculum will follow the 'triple science' route. The additional hour of science a week will allow students to be awarded three separate science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The triple science route is suitable for learners of all abilities.
- There will be an opportunity for students who have SEND provision to access an extra literacy and numeracy lesson each week as part of their 'options' timetable while still attaining 8 GCSE or equivalent qualifications.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide a face to face curriculum evening on site however, there is a 'Curriculum Talk 2020' Loom video that we strongly advise you to watch via the following link:

<https://www.loom.com/share/6a6ac8a9dcda47bdbd735bc850ecbf3a>

This video explains the key information that you need to know to support your child with this curriculum process.



**FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST**

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We have also produced a 'Curriculum Booklet' which contains detailed information regarding course content and assessment. This booklet can be located on the school website and will provide a useful tool and reference point for discussions with your child.

The students have been sent home with a hard copy of the options form (this is also at the end of the information booklet on the website). When completing the form please ensure the following criteria are met:

- **Every student MUST choose to study at least one of the following subjects: Geography, History or French**
- **To achieve the 'EBacc' qualification you MUST choose French and Geography or History.**
- **Students must have a broad and balanced curriculum which is appropriate to their academic ability.**
- **Students wishing to follow an academic route shouldn't select more than one technical or vocational course. No student should select more than two technical or vocational courses**
- **Due to dis-counting codes students cannot choose both GCSE PE and the Sports Studies Cambridge Award.**

After watching the LOOM video, going through the information booklet and the EBacc information leaflet (all on the website), the 'Curriculum Preferences' form should be completed by the student, checked over by yourselves and signed by the student and you. Form must be returned to school between 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> November.

After we have received and reviewed all returns, we will contact every student to confirm the outcomes of the process for them by the end of November at the latest.

Thank you all for your support with this process.

Kind Regards

*Mr G Felvus*

**Assistant Headteacher**



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