21st May 2021

RE: Options

Dear Parents and Carers

In our drive to deliver an ambitious and aspirational curriculum for all our students, I have reviewed the options process and the choices made by our Year 9 students. These choices were made largely without the input of school leaders and without the normal advice and guidance we would normally offer due to the pandemic. We are therefore going to re-run the options process on Monday and we will give student personalised guidance to make informed, guided decisions about their futures.

We feel very strongly that our students should be competing on an equal ground with their peers at other schools, with no restrictions on their ability to apply to good colleges and 6th form providers, including Long Road and Hills Road. To this end there will be clear focus on studying a modern foreign language and a humanities subject with students then making a completely free choice in two further blocks. This reflects the ambition of the academy and also reflects clear guidance from the Department of Education to raise the aspirations of our students. We see this as hugely positive step for our students. They deserve the very best education and we believe this will ensure their curriculum in Year 10 and 11 is broad and balanced.

In addition, it has become clear that due to timetabling and staffing that some courses are not viable to run next year. These are always difficult decisions to make but the over-riding influence on these decisions is to ensure the best possible experience for our students. I understand this will be disappointing for some students and parents.

To help you discuss the changes with your child, we have included the Department for Education’s literature on EBacc, with this letter and all students will attend an additional assembly on Monday, to help them make their new choices.

FAQs

**Will my child have to take Spanish and a humanities subject?**

*Yes – unless they have not studied Spanish before. They will have two free choices in addition to these.*

**Why does my child have to choose Spanish and humanities?**

*There are many reasons for choosing Spanish. For students who wish to study at the country’s best universities, it is huge advantage in their applications. Every year these universities make it very clear that they value a second language and it is more and more important to have a formal qualification in one in order to successfully apply. Spanish is also one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and will open up a huge amount national and international opportunities for our students. It is also fun and accessible and teaches students about an exciting country and culture which they may well want to experience as they get older.*

*Humanities subjects are the building blocks of students learning about the world around them. Both History and Geography expose students to key issues that affect their lives directly and have shaped the world in which they live. We believe these subjects are vital in providing a balanced view of the world and will shape the way they contribute to the world in the future.*

**Can my child choose two Humanities subjects?**

*Yes in principle. We will guide individual students with these choices.*

**Will my child have free choice, after Humanities and Spanish?**

*For the most part, yes, although we will support students in making choices which result in a broad and balanced curriculum. Students will not be able to select two subjects, from the same curriculum area e.g. Child Care and Health and Social Care or Art and Photography.*

**One of my child’s original subject choices is no longer on the list**

*As mentioned above, we have had to remove some choices due to timetable and staffing, as offering these was no longer viable.*

An updated version of the options booklet will be sent out shortly. Please email options@lecacademy.org with any questions or queries and thank you all for your support.

Scott Gaskins

Principal, LECA