



## Changes to Year 10 Options

Dear families,

As you will be aware learners across the country have been negatively impacted by Covid-19 through the closure of school last year and since returning the ongoing issues of self-isolation of learners and teaching staff have further impacted on learner progress. For current Year 11 learners Ofqual have made significant changes to their exams including removing full units of work that have to be taught for all subjects, making the exams easier and changing grade boundaries. This has allowed teachers to reduce the curriculum time needed to cover the exam course however this is only in place to support learners in the current Year 11. There have been no adaptations to the expectations for the content or grade boundaries for current Year 10 students.

This term has seen continued disruption for learners in Year 10 with increased absence of their teachers and the learners due to track and trace. 60% of Year 10 learners have missed school in this term due to covid-19. Although there has been positive progress in regards to a vaccine we are expecting the current self-isolation measures to be in place at least for the next term which will again impact on learners' access to the curriculum.

Due to this the school has reviewed the current curriculum offer for Year 10 and in the interests of learners having the adequate time to access their GCSE options we are taking the unusual decision at this time for learners to reduce their option subjects from **four to three**, increasing the amount of time they have to complete the chosen option course to the appropriate standard. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly and although it will have significant benefits to all learners in terms of their overall progress we are aware that this does mean that learners will have to make some difficult decisions about which of their four option subjects to drop. However, we need to support learner progress and minimise the impact the pandemic is having on their long term progress and educational opportunities post 16. This decision still ensures that learners are studying enough subjects to access all post-16 and University courses.

Learners will be asked to re-opt using the three option blocks detailed below. Unless learners are option for BTEC Music **Learners can only opt for subjects they are already studying** e.g. a student who is currently studying History, Spanish, Catering and Art could not be able to choose Statistic or Design Technology. The student would re-opt for three of the four subjects they are already studying from the three option block choices below:

Option A	Option B	Option C
History Geography Spanish Statistics Intervention English and Maths	History French Spanish Computer Science Health and Social Care I Media BTEC Sport BTEC Music Catering and hospitality	Triple Science Art Drama BTEC Sport Business Studies Catering Citizenship Design and Technology

**A**chievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

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\* Learners currently studying Princes Trust will receive individual phone calls on Friday or Monday to discuss their options in this block

To support parents with the decision Year 10 parents will receive their child's current working at grades for this term along with their end of GCSE target to help make an informed decision. The options form will be sent to parents electronically on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December and responses need be sent back by 4pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Late responses may not get their first choice for option C.

Any questions regarding this process can be sent to [options@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk](mailto:options@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk) or by contacting Mr Morris or Mr Cleverley by contacting the main school reception.

Yours faithfully



Ms Fay Beach  
Headteacher