

Thursday, 9th January 2020

Dear Parents,

Year 9 Subject Consultation Evening - Thursday 16th January – 4pm – 7pm**Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 13th February – 6pm – 8pm**

As we outlined in our communication with you at the start of the academic year, January is a vitally important month for our Year 9 students. The Spring Term of Year 9 is an exciting time as there is a special emphasis on finding out not only how they are getting on with regards to their academic flight paths, but also looking ahead to Key Stage 4 and the buzz of making choices about the courses and pathways that students will follow in Years 10 and 11. The whole process is planned to enable students to think carefully about themselves, their strengths, their ambitions, and to be fully aware of all possibilities open to them. This happens in a number of stages.

Stage One – Year 9 Subject Consultation Evening

The Parents' Subject Consultation Evening will run from 4.00pm – 7.00pm on Thursday 16th January in the school Sports Hall, and will give you the opportunity to speak to subject teachers about your son/daughter's progress in the subject to date and what they need to do to ensure they are making progress on their academic flight path. Whilst it will give an opportunity to talk about your son/daughter's individual potential in the subject for GCSE it is not designed to discuss Key Stage 4 options. We hope that an up to date view on how your child is progressing in each subject will enable you to have better informed discussion about which subjects to opt for.

Your son/daughter will receive an appointment sheet that they will use to record the times organised for you to meet their teachers. Please encourage them to include meetings with all of their teachers.

Appointments are usually five minutes in duration as there are lots of parents to see. Please don't be offended if your discussion is cut short, this will only happen if an obvious queue is forming. If you think that a longer appointment will be needed, please contact the school to arrange a separate appointment.

Stage Two - PSHCE Day

On Thursday 23rd January Year 9 students will spend time on PSHCE day considering all this information in depth and a copy of the Options Booklet will be sent home electronically and published on the school website. Please take the time to read through this information before the options evening. If you require a paper copy please contact the school office.

Stage Three - Year 9 Options Evening

At the Parents' Evening you will have found out about your son's/daughter's potential in each of their subjects directly from their subject teacher. This is then followed up with the Options Evening on Thursday 13th February.

Outstanding education at the heart of the community

This is designed to give you a full overview of what the curriculum looks like at Key Stage 4 and what options are available to your son/daughter given the constraints we now work with in schools. We will also outline in detail the many changes to the structure of the GCSE examinations and how they are graded.

During the evening there will be a presentation in the main hall at 6pm where Key Stage 4 will be outlined, along with the context, timeline and processes we follow.

From 6.30pm – 8pm subject staff and current GCSE students will be available to discuss the content and structure of the Key Stage 4 courses in our 'Options Marketplace' in key areas around the school. A map of locations will be distributed at the end of the talk.

Stage Four – Counselling and Final Decisions

Following the Options Evening students will then be given an options form that they must return to school by Monday 27th February to express their **initial** preferences. This will enable us to clarify which subjects are definitely running and make final decisions about option blocks. On Wednesday 26th February students will be given the opportunity to talk to their tutors about their options during their Review Day appointment. Further details of this will come out very soon.

Where there are any issues remaining, or for students who are still unsure, this will be followed up with a one-to-one discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, the House Progress Leads or with Mr Case.

When all this is done you will receive a letter to confirm your son/daughter's final choices.

At any stage you are more than welcome to contact us if you have any further questions or queries not covered in any of the stages outlined above.

In the meantime we look forward to seeing you at both the Subject Consultation Evening and Options Evening.

Yours faithfully,

Mr T McLardy

Mr T McLardy

Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessment