



6<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents,

## **Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – 6pm – 8pm**

As we outlined in our communication with you at the start of the academic year, February 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 – PSHCE Day 3**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> January Year 9 students spent some time with myself and their House Progress Leads, considering their future aspirations alongside our Options Booklet. This booklet is now published on the [school website](#) and has been distributed via ClassCharts. 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 Two - Year 9 Options Evening Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

At Parents' Evening you will have found out about your son/daughter's potential in each of their subjects directly from their subject teacher. This is then followed up with the Options Evening on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. 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 within in schools. We will also outline in detail the many changes to the structure of the GCSE examinations and how they are graded.

**On the evening there will be a presentation in the main hall at 6pm** where Key Stage 4 will be outlined, along with the context, as well as the timeline and processes we follow. Students will be issued with their Options Form at the end of the talk.

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

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### **Stage Three – Counselling and Final Decisions**

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 be distributed very soon.

Students must then return their Options Form to school by **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February** to express their **initial** preferences. This will enable us to clarify which subjects are definitely running and make final decisions about option blocks.

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.

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 Options Evening on the 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Yours faithfully,

Mr T. McLardy

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Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum and Assessment