

Thursday, 28th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Year 9 GCSE Options

As you are aware, we are in the midst of our GCSE Options process during which we guide Year 9 students in selecting the GCSE courses that best suit their individual interests and aspirations. Despite having been unable to invite parents of Year 9 students into school to discuss GCSE Options this year, we would very much like you to be fully involved in the process.

As per our last communication on the matter, I have this morning delivered an assembly to students (available [here](#)) which included both a brief reminder of the process and, importantly, our 'Option Blocks' for 2021-2023. These are as follows:

Option A	Option B	Option C
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Art and Design	Art and Design
*Geography	*Computer Science	*Computer Science
*History	Drama	*Geography
Physical Education	Food Preparation and Nutrition	*History
Religious Education	*Geography	Music
*Spanish	*Spanish	Religious Education

Students are asked to choose one subject from each column, including at least one subject marked with an asterisk(*). Students should also take care not to choose any subject that they have not studied during Year 9.

Outstanding education at the heart of the community

Please support your son/daughter in doing so from 12 noon tomorrow, when the online Options Form will be released to the Year 9 Google Classroom. The deadline for completion is **3pm on Friday 5th February**. Students will be able to amend their choices by revisiting the form up until this point.

To help students and parents understand the nature of the courses on offer, we have a wealth of information available on the school website: <https://www.tarletonacademy.org/tour>

The next stage in the process will be for us to examine the students' initial choices. This will enable us to clarify which subjects are definitely running and, if necessary, make any final alterations to the option blocks. Students will each have an individual conversation with their Personal Mentor to discuss how their selections fit alongside their aspirations. 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 or their House Progress Lead.

At any stage you are more than welcome to contact us if you have any further questions or queries not covered in the website information. You can do so via enquiries@tarletonacademy.org.

When we reach the end of the process, you will receive a letter to confirm your son's/daughter's final GCSE courses.

Yours faithfully,

T McLardy

Mr T McLardy

Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessment