

3rd March 2023

**Your child has been placed on the OPEN pathway.**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**GCSE Options Process: Year 9 students who will start Year 10 GCSE Courses in September 2023**

Welcome to the beginning of the GCSE Options process for our current Year 9 students at Werneth School. These students will be embarking on their Key Stage 4 (KS4) studies from September this year. This is a crucial time for our students and we are here to both guide and advise them as they make important choices which will have a direct impact on their future life chances.

At Werneth, we aim to provide a curriculum which

- matches the abilities and aspirations of our students
- fulfils the ambitions of parents/carers for their children
- meets the requirements and expectations of further education providers and employers.

The curriculum at Werneth offers a broad and balanced range of courses, with the essential subjects of English, Mathematics and Science at the core of our provision. All students at Werneth will be studying the following subjects as part of their compulsory education at KS4:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science (Combined Science or 3 Separate Sciences)
- Core PE, Core RE and Core Life Learning
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In addition, students will have **4 option choices**, the details of which will depend on the pathway on which they have been placed.

As part of the process to guide your child to the correct balance of subjects, we have analysed the performance data of each of our Year 9 students and checked their performance with subject teachers. We have then placed individuals on what we believe to be the appropriate KS4 pathway to enable them to attain, achieve and maximise their potential over the coming two years of GCSE and beyond. We have two pathways

Werneth School, Harrytown, Romiley, Stockport SK6 3BX

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### **The Ebacc Pathway**

This pathway will be chosen for students achieving well in all core subjects, humanities and a Modern Foreign Language. This stands at about 30% of our current year 9 cohort.

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification but a group of carefully chosen subjects that are the most sought-after qualifications for university, college and for employers. It is a more academic route and is the best pathway for students who are considering A-Levels, University or to keep their options open for their future careers.

**Students on the Ebacc pathway** will study at least one humanities subject from GCSE History and GCSE Geography and a Modern Foreign Language from French or Spanish. The remaining two option choices may be selected from a wide range of high value Level 2 qualifications including GCSEs and vocational courses.

### **The Open Pathway**

The Open Pathway will allow for a broad and balanced selection of subjects, with a blend of academic and more practical/vocational options.

**Students on the Open pathway** must select at least one subject from an Ebacc list of subjects including History, Geography, French, Spanish and Computer Science. The remaining three option choices may be selected from a wide range of high value Level 2 qualifications including GCSEs and vocational courses.

We advise students to maintain a broad and balanced choice of subjects to ensure that future pathways are kept open. Although career direction and particular interests are important, we believe that students are more likely to succeed if they choose subjects that they enjoy and have a keen interest in.

We ask families to take full advantage of the guidance and resources available and to discuss the possibilities and choices thoroughly. The staff at Werneth are here to support students in making the right choices in order to ensure each individual is able to follow an appropriate pathway to success.

The following will be available to help you and your son or daughter make your selections:

- Assemblies and presentations for students during February March
- Option booklet outlining all the courses offered in the option process
- **9th March Year 9 Options Evening**– an opportunity to discuss options with subject teachers
- **23rd March Year 9 Parents' Evening**
- Dedicated email to respond to all your option queries: [options@wernethschool.com](mailto:options@wernethschool.com)
- **Online Option Form to be completed by Monday 28th March**

Yours sincerely,

Gill Kennedy  
Assistant Headteacher, KS3