



Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

10 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

This stage in Year 9 is an exciting time for our students, who are undoubtedly starting to consider their Key Stage 4 Options choices. Today, I delivered an assembly to Year 9 students to launch the options process, which will help them make an informed decision about what subjects they would like to study next. This letter provides some information about the options process and details of what you can expect from us in the coming weeks.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum:

All students in Key Stage 4 will study GCSE Maths, GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature and GCSE Combined Science (which counts for two GCSE qualifications). The National Curriculum at Key Stage 4 also states that students will study RE, PE, ICT and PSHE, although these subjects are not GCSE qualifications. Students then opt to study four additional qualifications from a range of different subjects.

The Pathways:

To support students in making these choices, we will allocate each student a curriculum pathway and the options process will look slightly different dependent on their pathway. We are currently in the process of allocating pathways, and you will receive further communication from me in the week commencing Monday 29 January, to confirm if your child has been allocated into the Purple, Green or White Pathway. More information about the pathways will be provided during the Options Evening.

We appreciate that this is an important decision for your child and we have planned a number of events over the coming weeks to support them in making this decision.

Options Assembly:

On Wednesday 24 January all Year 9 students will have the opportunity to hear from Curriculum Leaders of subjects they have never experienced before, such as Health & Social Care and Business Studies. Staff will deliver a short presentation, providing an overview of the topics covered and how the students are assessed.

Options Evening:

On Thursday 1 February we are inviting all Year 9 students to our annual Options Evening. At this event, you and your child will attend a presentation provided by the Principal and Vice Principal and you will be able to visit our subject fayre. At the fayre, you and your child will be able to speak to



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different Curriculum Leaders about the courses they offer. We will then ask your child to sign up for some subjects that they would like to try out during the sample lessons.

Sample Lessons:

During week commencing Monday 19 February, Year 9 students will be given the opportunity to sample some lessons in the subjects that they are interested in studying at Key Stage 4. This will be more of an in-depth introduction to the course and will give students a real taste of what to expect if they opt for that subject in Key Stage 4.

Partnership Evening:

On Thursday 29 February, you will be invited to attend our Partnership Evening, which is an opportunity for you to meet with <<student name>>'s teachers to discuss their progress and attitude to learning in each subject. During this event, you will also be assigned an appointment with a member of the Academy Leadership Team to complete the options form and <<student name>> will be able to confirm their Key Stage 4 options.

We invest heavily in the options process, as we understand that getting these choices right can make significant difference to student success at the end of Key Stage 4. We hope that we can work in strong partnership with parents/carers in order to achieve this.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or a member of the Year 9 Team, if you have any questions about the options process.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Grace
Vice Principal

