



Dear Parents and Carers

18 January 2021

Virtual Options Evening

In September 2021 your son/daughter, along with all students in the present Year 9, will begin a two year course leading to qualifications in GCSEs or equivalent. To assist in these important decisions there will be a Virtual Options Evening on our website from 28th January. This will be followed by a virtual Year 9 Parents evening on Thursday 4th February that will enable you to discuss emerging option choices with your son/daughter's class teacher. (This is a change to the previously published date for Parents Evening)

The Options Evening webpage will provide you with the full range of possibilities with a detailed booklet, which will be sent to parents online next week and a video guide to each course. Our aim is to allow a degree of choice while making sure that all pupils have a broad, balanced curriculum. There will also be an online option form, where you will indicate the preferences your child would like to make. This form should be completed by the deadline, Wednesday 10th February. The form needs to be signed by a parent or guardian.

To guide pupils, each student will be given a pathway to help them choose appropriate option choices. The Options Evening has been designed to help parents and pupils in making their decisions. It will help to read all of the options booklet and discuss its implications with your child before decisions are made about choice of subject. Pupils are sometimes tempted to make choices to ensure friendship patterns can continue in Year 10. What may be correct subject choices for their best friend may not be right for them - they must choose wisely!

Obviously staffing levels and accommodation control the options that we can offer. While every attempt will be made to meet students' needs, it may be necessary to offer some students alternative options from those that they initially request. This may occur if too few pupils opt for a subject or if there are too many to accommodate. In addition, if a student chooses an unsuitable subject, or too narrow a range of subjects, they will be contacted to discuss their choices and explore a range of appropriate alternatives.

I urge you to read through all the information you receive with your son/daughter. Please do not hesitate to contact us, or our SENDCO, Mrs Lewis, if you require advice on any aspect of your child's subject choice which may be causing you concern.

Yours sincerely

Keith Howard
Headteacher