

21 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **RE: Choosing GCSE Subjects (2026-2028)**

Choosing Key Stage Four (KS4) subjects is an extremely important decision for our Year 9 students. As such, we dedicate a lot of time and energy to supporting students to make informed decisions.

Mr Armstrong ran a KS4 choices assembly for students on **Monday 19 January**. All Year 9 students will receive an information booklet the following week. The booklet will offer detailed information on the courses available, along with an overview of the process for selecting subjects. There will be a subject taster afternoon to give students a chance to try some of the subjects and experience what it will be like in Key Stage Four. We will also be dedicating a page to the process on our website, which will provide families with guidance and videos to support them through the process.

### **Subject Taster Afternoon**

We will be running taster sessions in February and will confirm the date shortly. On this day, students will not be following their normal timetable during period 4 & 5, instead they will be trialling some KS4 subjects. These subjects have been selected because they are either new, or fundamentally different to the KS3 course. Each student will trial 2 subjects, 1 during period 4 and 1 during period 5. We ask that students select 2 of the subjects from the listed below: NCFE Business Studies; NCFE Health and Fitness; GCSE Media Studies; GCSE Music; or Drama. I will be sharing a google form with students (to their school email addresses) in due course.

### **Parents' Evening/Subject Fayre**

Another key part of the process is our KS4 choices evening on **Thursday 5 February**. The event will give parents and students the opportunity to discuss possible choices with subject teachers here at St Dunstan's. This year we are combining this event with our parents' evening.

The event will be split into 3 parts:

- (1) There will be talks from Mr Armstrong about the process and things students should consider when choosing their options. You do not need to book for these.

- (2) There will be a parents' evening section, where you can meet your child's teacher and discuss their academic progress so far this year. I will contact you shortly to explain how to book appointments for the evening.
- (3) There will also be a subject fayre section, where you can talk to any teacher about their course at KS4.

See the below table for event timings.

<b>Talks on the option process</b>	<b>Speaking to subject staff</b>
<b>Talk 1</b> (15:35 - 15:50) Drama Studio	<b>Regular Parents' Evening</b> The Assembly Room (15:50 - 18:45)
<b>Talk 2</b> (17:00 - 17:15) Drama Studio	<b>Subject Fayre</b>
<b>Talk 3</b> (18:30 - 18:45) Drama Studio	Sportshall (18:45 - 19:30)

If you cannot stay for the subject fayre at the end of the evening and you would like further information on any of the KS4 courses, we will be updating our KS4 choices page to include videos on all of the subjects on offer. I will write to you again when this has been completed.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Armstrong

Assistant Headteacher

St Dunstan's School