



10th January 2025

Dear Parents and carers

The options process for Year 9 begins this term. This is when your child chooses their preferred subjects to study for GCSE. Every student will choose four GCSE subjects in addition to English, Maths and Science GCSEs.

The first step in this process is for students to complete a straw poll, indicating the subjects they think they are most likely to choose. The results of this straw poll then allows us to create four blocks of subjects from which students will make their final choices from. This is important as we aim to create a GCSE curriculum that best meets the choices of our students each year. This was explained to the students in assembly yesterday.

The timeline for this process is:

- 10 January Straw poll goes live deadline
- 16 January Deadline for straw poll to be completed
- 30 January 6pm Options Evening. Final choices form goes live
- 24 February Deadline for the submission of all options forms

Please discuss the options with your child and the reasons for the choices that they are selecting in the straw poll. It is important at this point for them to be considering the subjects that they enjoy the most and have a passion for. The straw poll form can only be submitted **once**. It will be live on your child's Edulink tomorrow morning.

All Year 9 parents and students should attend the Options Evening on 30 January, when the final choices will be shared. During the evening there will be a short presentation to explain the option blocks and an opportunity to speak to teachers across all GCSE subjects. Written information about every GCSE will also be provided, including links to the exam specifications and exam structure for each GCSE.

Please fill in this form to indicate how many seats you require on the evening.

In the next few weeks your child's subject teachers will speak to them in lessons about their subject and students can ask questions to find out more.

I look forward to seeing you at the Options Evening on 30 January.

Kind regards

Mrs Abbott Deputy Headteacher

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