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Headteacher: Mr M. Warren

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Dear Yr 9 Parents/Carers

GCSE Options 2019-2021

As mentioned in my letter inviting you to attend the GCSE Option Forum on 5th February 2019 you will be asked to specify by the start of next half term which GCSE subjects your daughter would definitely like to study at Key Stage 4 in addition to the Core Curriculum. Details of all the subjects studied in the Core Curriculum, as well as those offered as Option Choices are given in the Year 9 Options Booklet which is available on the website and you may wish to bring with you if you are planning to attend the Forum.

[Year 9 Options Booklet 2019-2021](#)

As outlined in the booklet all students will study the following Core GCSE Curriculum:

English Language	Mathematics
English Literature	Religious Studies (short GCSE course)
Science	Physical Education (non-examination)

Your daughter is being asked to choose four other subjects which should comprise one Modern Foreign Language Option, one Humanity Option and two Free Options. A small number of students, however, will be advised at their senior management consultation that they are eligible to make slightly different curriculum choices from this if they wish.

In order to structure the option blocks in a way that will allow as many students as possible to be able to select their 4 preferred subjects from the four blocks, we are asking you to indicate your daughter's preferred GCSE option choices following the GCSE Option Forum on Tuesday 5th February and your daughter's consultation with a senior member of staff. These 2 free choices should be inputted **in order of preference**, together with a Free Option reserve choice, from the list of subjects given in the dropdown.

Once all these Option indications have been received, the subjects will be allocated to four option blocks for timetabling purposes. Your daughter will receive these blocks in mid February, when she will be asked to confirm her choices.

One subject is not available to all students as a option choice, namely, Separate Sciences. Your daughter can only choose this subject if she has been informed by her Science teacher that she is eligible to take three separate Science GCSEs and has a target of 5 or above. Girls may only take one of the two Technology subjects (Graphic Products and Textiles). She may only choose German, Italian, Russian or Spanish as a Modern Foreign Language Option if she has studied it previously in Year 9. She may only consider choosing computing if she has a target of 5 or more in Mathematics.

I would emphasise that your daughter is not committed to these choices and may make different choices in February on the option block form. In addition one or more of these subjects may not be available in the blocks if insufficient demand exists for the subject. There is also a class size limit in some subjects such as Food Preparation and Nutrition but we may put on an extra class if demand and staffing allow.

The electronic application form will be available on the website following the GCSE Option Forum where you will be able to discuss her choices and core curriculum with subject staff. The deadline for all option indications is Friday 8th February.

Yours sincerely

Julie Stephenson
DHT Curriculum