



7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Year 9 Options – Information for Parents and Students

I am writing to further inform you of the important events taking place in the next few weeks, which aim to offer guidance and support for both you and your child regarding their option choices. The calendared dates are shown below:

Date	Event	Details
08 Jan	Y9 Options Assembly	GCSE Options 2025 launched to students.
13 – 17 Jan	Y9 Assessment Week	Year 9 students complete assessments in all subjects.
20 Jan	Options Booklet, Pathways and Options Forms released	Options booklet containing information about the options process and the subjects your child can opt for will be issued.  The form to be filled in to express your child's preferences. This will contain a recommended pathway about the types of subjects your child is best suited to study.
23 Jan	Think Ahead Day – Y9 Options Taster Sessions	Students have 30 minute taster sessions with new subjects: Business, Economics, Health & Social Care, iMedia, PE GCSE and RS.
30 Jan	GCSE Subject Information Evening - 5pm	Families are invited to a GCSE and Options Information Presentation, followed by an opportunity to consult with teachers to find out more about each subject at KS4.
03 –14 Feb	Student Advisory Meetings (invite only)	Coaching sessions to support students with making 'big decisions' and asking the right questions.
06 Feb	DCP 2 Report	Data Collection Point 2 provides a report from your child's current progress from their subject teachers.
06 Feb	Y9 Progress Meeting	Families meet with Year 9 subject teachers to discuss current progress and suitability to KS4 courses.
11 Feb	Options surgeries	15-minute consultations by appointment with Ms Hind for parents and students who may have further questions or issues about the options process.
25 Feb	Option form submission deadline	Option forms must be submitted by Year 9 students to their tutor.



## Options Booklet, Recommended Pathway and Option Form

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, your child will be given an options booklet in advance of the GCSE Subject Information Evening. A letter giving the school's recommendation as to which curriculum pathway your child should follow will be included, this will also include their options form. This form should be filled in and returned by **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**.

The options booklet can be used, in conjunction with the information evening and progress meetings, to help you and your child make informed choices regarding their options.

## Curriculum Pathways

To help guide students and parents in their selection of subjects we place all students into options Pathways. These **do not** represent any kind of streaming or setting process. Rather, they are a means of guiding students and parents towards the subjects that experience has shown, those students in that particular pathway, are likely to succeed in.

These pathways are:

- **Blue** – students who are eligible to study the English Baccalaureate (please see below for further details).
- **Yellow** – students are not required to study the English Baccalaureate and will have an increased number of practical or vocational subjects available to them.

## Core Curriculum

Irrespective of their pathway, all students will study for GCSEs in:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Citizenship

## English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The majority of students in Year 9 will be invited to study those subjects that make up what is known as the English Baccalaureate. These are English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish).

## Economics and Computer Science

It is important to note that, some subjects have entry requirements:

- GCSE Computer Science – students must have been awarded a current attainment of at least 'Deepening' in Mathematics by the time of their Year 9 DCP2 report in January.
- GCSE Economics - students must have been awarded a current attainment of at least 'Deepening' in English and Mathematics by the time of their Year 9 DCP2 report in January.



## GCSE Subject Information Evening

There will be a GCSE Subject Information Evening for all Year 9 parents and students on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at **5pm**. The meeting will provide an outline of the options process and the factors that students and their parents should consider. Parents and students will also have the opportunity to meet curriculum leaders and ask any questions. I should stress that this is **not** an evening to discuss the progress of individual students.

## Progress Meetings

Parent consultation meetings where you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's current subject teachers are scheduled for **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**. Please note that students are encouraged to attend.

## The Options Surgeries

On the morning of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, I will be available to answer any questions that you may still have about your child's options. To book one of the available 15-minute appointments, please contact the school's reception from 10.00am on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Your child will also be able to attend the meeting if you wish.

Any further questions regarding the Year 9 Options process, please contact the school office and your query will be passed on to the relevant person.

Yours sincerely



Ms S Hind  
Assistant Headteacher

