

**11 February 2025**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: Year 9 Options Process**

As we approach an exciting time in your child's educational journey, we are writing to inform you about the Year 9 options process. This is a crucial stage in their academic path, as it marks the beginning of choosing subjects that will shape their learning experience and future career pathways.

In Year 9, students are asked to select their GCSE and other qualifications for the next two years. We aim to provide all our students with a broad and balanced curriculum while allowing them to focus on subjects they enjoy and excel in.

We understand that this can be an exciting but also a challenging time for both students and their families. What is most important is that all students select subjects that best suit their needs and aspirations. To support this process, we will be providing information about the subjects on offer, including guidance on how each subject may contribute to their future career opportunities. Students will have the opportunity to attend an Options Evening, where they can hear from subject specialists and ask questions about the courses.

With this, I wanted to share with you some important dates to help support you and your child in making these decisions.

Key dates are as follows:

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025:** Year 9 Option Assembly - to inform our students of the options available and the process/timeline. In this assembly, option subjects will talk about their subject content in Years 10 & 11, and how they are examined.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025:** Students will receive their pathway and Options booklet which provides information about the subjects they can study and the options process. The Options booklet and information will be made available via our website.

**Year 9 Options Evening, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 5pm-7pm:** in Newman Hall, this will be an opportunity for parents and carers to hear about the options process and to explain the pathways students can follow, along with guidance on how to choose. This will be led by members of the Senior Leadership Team who will also be available during the evening to answer any questions you may have.



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**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025:** Option Form open for students to complete. The Option Form will be via Microsoft Forms. Students will also have an interview with either a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Year 9 Pastoral Team, giving students the opportunity to discuss the most appropriate pathway and subjects for them. Parents can also request a meeting with staff if they would like more support during this process.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Virtual Year 9 Parent and Carers' Evening on School Cloud:** this is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers and for them to answer any questions you may have about options.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025:** deadline for options form to be submitted online.

We are committed to helping all students make informed choices that will support their academic and personal growth. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns during this period.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Bennett  
**Deputy Headteacher**