

10th February 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

Year 9 Options

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. As we approach the Options process for Year 9 I am writing to provide you with an outline for the process and the key dates. Due to the current restrictions for students and staff we have put a number of new resources in place to support you in the Options process. **These resources will go 'live' on Wednesday 3rd March.**

Online Options Booklet.

The online booklet provides details about the overall curriculum for Key Stage 4, including compulsory exam courses, as well as details about the optional subjects.

Online Presentation

I have also created an online presentation to talk you through the process and provide an overview of the support available. I hope you find this helpful. These are the key messages I would usually share in a face-to-face presentation in Clare Hall.

Presentation/Video for each course.

There will also be a presentation/video for each individual course to replace the usual Options Evening. This will provide you with details of the course and help you make your final choices. The staff have been working hard to present their subjects in an interesting and informative way.

Personal contact with the course leader/teacher.

There will also be a link to communicate with staff in each department. This is not compulsory for you to use but it will enable you to ask individual questions if they have not been answered through the subject presentations and Options Booklet. This can be done via email, or via a virtual Options Evening discussion on 18th March between 4pm and 7pm.

Links to Careers guidance and presentations.

Even at this age there are very few choices you can make that would completely close off your future opportunities. The choices you make at the end of Year 11 will be much more significant in terms of your long term plans. However, there are some links that you may find interesting to look at. They may even get you thinking about a change in career!

Online Options Form to submit your option choices by 24th March.

This form is quite straightforward but do get in touch if you have any questions. A prompt return will enable us to progress the options process to the next stage without delay.

Summary

Students are encouraged to discuss any questions you have during their live interactions with teachers and through Google Classroom. I can guarantee if they have a question, it will also benefit others, so do ask. It is important that they get engaged with this process.

After the resources have gone 'live' on the website there are three weeks to look at all the information. We advise you to go through all of this information before emailing staff specific questions, as we hope that all key questions will be covered in the presentations. The virtual Options Evening discussion is new and will run in exactly the same format as the Parents' Evenings we have held this year, which have proved to be a popular and enjoyable way to discuss children's progress. Appointments will be **available from 14th March** and the evening **will take place on 18th March.**

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After this, if you do have further questions you can email the member of staff who leads the course you have a question about, their contact details can be found on the subject page within the Options Booklet. We will send a reminder with links to our web based resources when they go live on 3rd March. I hope that the students enjoy the process of beginning to make some choices about courses they want to study in Key Stage 4.

Thank you for supporting them in this process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Hudson".

Peter Hudson
Vice Principal