

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 9 Students

Welcome to the Options process for Year 9 students. It’s an exciting stage within education where students have their first real opportunity to make some choices about the subjects they pursue through to exams. We are proud to maintain a wide choice of courses, with 24 level two (GCSE level) programmes to choose from. Whilst this offers a range of courses within the options, our aim is to ensure that every student has the correct balance of subjects to suit and support them to succeed in the future.

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.

**Online Options Booklet.**

This 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**

Ihave 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 option 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 March 24th.**

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.

Please also discuss any questions you have during your live interactions with teachers and through Google Classroom. I can guarantee if you have a question, it will also benefit others, so do ask.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum at Budmouth is made up of two parts:

* **Core/Compulsory Curriculum Subjects**
* **Two Option Subjects** – where students have the free choice from 24 courses.

The core/compulsory subjects you will study are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| English Literature | English Language | Maths | Science |
| Your current MFL | History or Geography | Core PSCS (non exam) | Core Sport (non exam) |

If students wish to choose both Geography and History, the option is available through their two free choices.

If students wish to study more than one language, this option is also available through the free options, but students need some prior experience of the 2nd language and should discuss this with their language teacher.

**The 24 Option Subjects are:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Art & Design | DT Graphics | Food & Nutrition | IT - Creative IMedia |
| Business Studies | DT Resistant Materials | French | Music |
| Citizenship | DT Textiles | Geography | PE GCSE |
| Computer Science | Engineering | German | Photography |
| Dance | Enterprise and Marketing | Health & Social Care | Spanish |
| Drama | Ethics and Philosophy | History | Sport BTec |

There are a number of course combinations that are classed by exam boards as the same qualification and therefore cannot be taken together. As a result students are not able to choose the following combinations:

Art and Photography

DT Graphics, Resistant Materials and Textiles are all classed as Product Design and can’t be taken together.

Business Studies and Enterprise and Marketing

BTec Sport & PE GCSE

Our KS4 Curriculum follows the guidance from the Department for Education and the National Curriculum, which covers the subjects listed above, but we also offer a much wider range of optional subjects for students to choose their two free options. Our curriculum provides full access to the EBacc programme for everyone which is considered to be the best balance of subjects for students to be successful across all future pathways.  The majority of our students will follow this programme, as we explained in our letter to you in September.  In cases where students still require additional support with their literacy we will contact parents directly and discuss other alternatives.

That letter also explained that if there were more students wanting to take a course than there were places, we would have to consider the effort levels and engagement with learning that the student has been demonstrating over the course of this year.

For more details about our curriculum, please see our website. Please note that the details for individual courses are for current KS4 students so exam specifications and boards may change for September, this booklet and the video/presentations contain the correct information for September 2021 or 2022

<https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org/our-curriculum/curriculum-overview/>

For further information about the EBacc programme, please follow the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>

You are encouraged to read this booklet with your parents/carer and consider very carefully the combinations of subjects that you choose. Research the courses further through discussions with teachers and your tutor in order to ensure that you make the right decision for you.

This booklet tells you all about the subjects that you will be studying in Years 10 and 11.  Please follow the advice given below, but remember that we’re all here to help you make the final decisions about your choices, so don’t panic!



*Mr P Hudson*

*Vice Principal*

* **Do** think carefully when making your choices: which assessments suit you better – exams or controlled assessment?  Which Sixth Form courses do you want to study?  What do you want to do when you leave Budmouth?

* **Don’t** choose a subject because your friends are doing it, you like the teacher or you think it will be an ‘easy’ option.  Subjects at Key Stage 4 can be very different to lessons in Years 7 and 8, so find out about them before making a decision.

* **Do** talk to your subject teachers, tutor, parents/carers.  If you talk to older brothers/sisters and students already studying at Key Stage 4, please be aware that courses may be different to the ones they study.

Your Options Form needs to be completed as a Google form and must be submitted by

**Wednesday 24th March 2021.**





















































