

15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Year 9 Students

As we settle into the final year of Key Stage Three, I am writing to give you some key information about the options process that takes place later this year and some important considerations for Year 9 students.

After Christmas, we will be undertaking the Options process where students choose some of the subjects they wish to continue through to exams in Year 11. It is always an exciting time for students and a chance to focus on those subjects where they have a particular interest or strength in.

We follow the National Curriculum at KS4, where every student will study English, Maths and Science, with curriculum time provided for PE and PSCS. Alongside this, students will study either Geography or History and the vast majority will continue to study their current Modern Foreign Language. Additional course options are then chosen from a wide range of courses.

Year 9 is an important year because:

- For those subject areas that you do not continue to study at KS4, it is important to develop the skills and knowledge as much as possible before the end of KS3.
- Progress and attainment in Science will dictate whether individual students are set in the separate Science groups for KS4, studying a separate GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, or if they are set in the combined Science group studying all three subject areas with an outcome worth two GCSE's. Progress throughout the year and the results in the end of year exams will be used to decide these groups.
- We aim to provide all students with their first choices for options. For those courses that are oversubscribed through the options process, we will look at each individual's effort and engagement in the subject area during the year to allocate places. Oversubscribed courses are often the smaller cohort courses: Engineering, Resistant Materials, Food & Nutrition and Photography. Therefore, it is important for students to keep all their options open and work hard in every subject area.

The Options process will start with a Year 9 Assembly on Monday 14th February 2022.

Yours sincerely



Peter Hudson  
Vice Principal