

February 2023

Dear Parent and Carer

Year 9 Options

As we approach the Options process for Year Nine I am writing to provide you with an outline for the process and the key dates. Over the last few years we have run a virtual Options Evening, but we have noted that parents don't get enough opportunities to visit the school and see the teachers, resources and the environment our students work with. So we will be running our 2023 Options Evening at the school. This provides the perfect opportunity for you to visit and talk to our teachers face to face.

Options Evening - Thursday March 2nd - Starting in Clare Hall - at 5pm.

On this evening we will start with a presentation in Clare Hall to outline the Options process and provide you with details about the options available and the best way to approach the choices.

You will then be able to spend the remainder of the evening in the Hub, talking to each subject's specialist staff.

Year 9 will be attending an extended assembly on Monday 20th February, running through the option details and undertaking some careers activities that will support them through the options process.

The feedback from parents and students over recent years was that it was so helpful to have all the information for Options in one place, with the ability to watch the presentations several times or at a time that suited you. So we have maintained the Options webpage as the go-to location for all information.

These resources will go 'live' on the website on Wednesday 22nd February.

Please be aware that the information currently on the website refers to last year's process which was different. All of the updates will be added on the 22nd.

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.

Presentation/Video for each course.

There will also be a presentation/video for each individual course. 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.

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 be available from Monday 6th March.

This form will be available from the Monday following the Options Evening. This will give you the time needed to look at all the information. It is quite straightforward but do get in touch if you have any questions. We advise that the form is only completed after all the presentations have been viewed to avoid choices being rushed. We are providing three weeks after the Options Evening before the Forms are due to

be returned, so there is no rush. It is far better to spend the time getting your option choices correct.

Deadline for submitting the Online Options Form - Weds 22nd March

The form can only be submitted once online. We recommend that you make a note of the choices you pick.

Summary

Students are encouraged to discuss any questions they have with their teachers at school. I can guarantee if they have a question, it will also benefit others, so do ask. It is important that they are engaged with this process. The Options Booklet includes the email address for each course Leader, so an opportunity to ask further questions if needed.

We will send a reminder with links to our web based resources when they go live on 22nd February. 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



Peter Hudson
Vice Principal

Options Timeline :

Monday	20th February	-	Year 9 extended assembly for Options launch
Wednesday	22nd February	-	Online Options Booklet launched
Weds 22nd - Thurs 2nd March		-	Parents and students review the information - presentations and subject information and form ideas about their option choices. Compile any questions you may have for subject specialists for the Options Evening.
Thursday	2nd March	-	5pm Clare Hall - Options Presentation - followed by the opportunity to visit the Hub and talk to staff in each Subject area.
Monday	6th March	-	Online Options form available to be completed
Wednesday	22nd March	-	Deadline for the Options form to be returned via Google Form.