



Dear Parents

February 2015

### **Year 9 Options**

With the Secretary of State for Education changing the curriculum and exams on a weekly basis it is quite hard to keep up with what will happen to the students' education. Do not be embarrassed if you haven't a clue as to what the future holds for your kids in school; we are all playing catch-up. However, this means that it is unlikely that you will attend a more decisive parents' evening than the Year 9 Parents' Options Evening on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

The start of the Year 9 Options process is an exciting time in every student's school career and it is important that they make the right choice for the future. This year it is also a potentially traumatic time for students and their families and all schools are faced with controversial choices. However, I believe we have devised an enthralling menu of subjects and choices on offer.

All students will study **GCSE Maths and English Language and English Literature**.

All students will follow a **Science course** according to their prior attainment, learning styles and aspirations. This could be either a course of GCSE Core and Additional Science or the more traditional Triple Science course involving separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

All students will choose one of GCSE **History or Geography**.

The government has created a new certificate known as the EBacc and it is keen that students going to university should have their EBacc. Employers will be encouraged to look for this, too, so it is sensible to address this demand.

The next choice involves students choosing to study a modern foreign language or not. This means **French or German or Spanish** and students will have already been studying their chosen language. No-one will be forced to do a language but we would be neglectful not to encourage the majority of students.

So the EBacc = English, Maths, 2 or 3 Sciences, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language.

Now you get an idea why the options evening might be helpful to you and the students. **Year 9 Parents' Options Evening Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – presentation at 6.00 pm.**

We are determined to maintain our broad and diverse curriculum in spite of the increased content in GCSE English and Maths. As such, we then have **three free choices**. It will be possible, for example, to study Music, Drama and Dance as a combination. You may also choose none of those subjects. There will be choices to be made from a range of highly successful subjects. Teachers will set out their stalls to attract the students at the Options Evening.

Our intention is to maximise student involvement, enjoyment and achievement and I am confident that we have created a superb set of option choices. I look forward to delivering a presentation of outstanding clarity on the 11<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, email me with any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully

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Headteacher

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