

7th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 9 GCSE Options Process 2022

I am writing to explain how our Year 9 options process will run. This process will be online, and we will support students to make informed choices through a booklet, a series of videos and through conversations with teachers and staff.

Assembly

All students in Year 9 will be invited to an assembly to explain the Options Process to them and to encourage them to access all opportunities to discuss their choices with staff as they can. At this assembly we will explain the range of subjects on offer to students and the timeline by which choices must be returned to us.

Thursday 10th March 2022: Launch of Remote Options Evening

At 4.30 p.m., we will launch our Remote Options Evening package on the school website. When you visit www.thedeanacademy.org you will be directed to our options page which has a range of materials designed to guide you and your child through the process of making these important decisions and outline the range of subjects, students can choose from. You will be able to access the following:

- **An introduction to the Options Process:** Mr Brand and Mr Mooney will talk you through the important decisions you need to make and to share some guidance of how to approach the choices. We will explain the reasons you should and should not give for picking a subject, talk you through the curriculum subjects available at GCSE and outline the steps you need to take to register the subjects you want to study.
- **Subject Outlines:** Our Directors of Faculty and Subject Leads will talk you through the subjects they teach and explain what each GCSE (or equivalent) course involves. We offer one of the widest choices of study at Key Stage 4 in the local area and these videos will give you a clear understanding of what each subject is about, how it is examined and whether it is for you.
- **Options Booklet:** An online booklet to support all aspects of the decision-making process will be available for the duration and you can read this to see how courses are assessed and the sort of things you will learn. If you would prefer a printed copy, these can be requested.



- **Online “Microsoft Teams” Options form:** When you are ready and have considered all of the options fully you can submit an online options form to us selecting the FOUR subjects you want to study in Year 10 and 11.

Between Thursday 10th March and 25th March

There are a number of people you can speak to if you need more help making your choices. Mr Stradling (Head of Year) can talk you through the many opportunities for support from school. He will reassure you that you are not alone and direct you to the people who can help. Mrs Roberts Marklove (Careers Advisor) can talk you through the support you will receive over the next two years as you begin to think more about future career options and post-16 study. In addition, your form tutor and teachers can support and give you guidance if you want to know which subjects you might be best suited to studying.

Friday 25th March: Mock Options “Forms” Deadline

You will be asked to complete a Microsoft Forms document online, giving four choices. At this stage no decisions are final, and it is only for us to understand estimated numbers. In previous years, this has enabled us to ensure that over 90% of students have been given their four first choices.

Thank you for all the discussions, encouragement and reassurance you will also provide throughout this process; please do get in touch if there is anything we can do to help. While this process is new to our Year 9 students, it is one we have been through many times before and it is an exciting time for Year 9 to take control of the subjects they study and the areas within which they focus.

Yours sincerely



Declan Mooney
Deputy Headteacher

DBM/TW - options-2022

