

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your son/daughter has now reached an exciting and extremely important stage in their educational life. During your child's time at The Dean Academy, they have followed a wide range of subjects that have provided a firm foundation for their learning at Key Stage Four. Over the next few weeks, they will now have to make crucial decisions about some of the subjects they wish to follow over the next two academic years. A few students may find these choices easy because they are already certain about their future career or path in further and higher education. We also know that some students find the process a bit daunting and require a little extra support in making their choices.

Following the half term break, all students in Year 9 will be given increased support via tutor time and assemblies explaining the Key Stage Four Options Process to them. We will work with them to understand the choices they can make as well as the subjects which everyone must study. They will be able to explore in more detail new subjects which are available to them, such as Engineering or Philosophy and Ethics, as well as speak to teachers and their tutor to start thinking about their own choices.

All students will continue to study courses in English Language and Literature, Maths and Science, as well as Core PE lessons and Values and Society (which covers statutory PHSE, RE and Sex and Relationships Education) throughout the next two years. They will also have the opportunity to choose four subjects to study from our broad curriculum offer.

In order to help us build a curriculum model which works for the majority of students, we will complete a "Mocktions" survey early in Term Four. These "mock options" allows students to give us an idea of which subjects they are interested in studying, so we can build subjects into options blocks. This choice is not binding and may be changed, but allows us to understand which courses are viable in terms of numbers of students.

On **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**, our **online Options Evening** will be launched on the school website. This will allow you and your child to access videos and booklets to help you make your choices. All Options Choices Forms must then be completed in the week after the Easter holidays, with students finding out their subjects before the end of the academic year. I am sure that you can appreciate allocating as many first choices to students as possible is both a challenging and time-consuming undertaking, so this will not happen until July 2023.

We will be communicating with you frequently over the next few weeks in order to provide you with as much support as possible, as we know this can be a process filled with hard decisions and tough conversations. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have questions throughout any of the process.

Best wishes for a good half term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

  


**Miss Emily Johnson**  
**Deputy Head Teacher**

  

**Mr Lee Kelley**  
**Head of Year 9**

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