

10 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: GCSE Options

Over the next few weeks, Year 9 students will make choices about which subjects they would like to study for their GCSE options. We are committed to providing the best education and opportunities we can to support each individual student. In order to achieve this, it is important that we work together to support your child with their decisions, and provide them with all the necessary information to make informed choices.

This is an exciting process for students and is the next stage of their journey to independence; however, we understand that it can also be quite daunting. With all this in mind, we have put in place a number of resources and experiences to help students make their choices. The information and key dates below explain the help available to assist with the 2025 options process.

On **Wednesday 22 January**, the process begins with an extended assembly for the year group. We will hand the options booklet to students at the end of the assembly. The information evening for parents and carers is on the same day, at **6.30pm in the Berkeley Theatre**.

As part of the process, students will have the opportunity to attend taster lessons in subjects that are not part of the Key Stage 3 curriculum. The additional subjects offered at Key Stage 4 are Sociology, Business Studies, and Health & Social Care. All students will also have an individual meeting to discuss their choices.

If you or your child have questions about particular subjects, please contact the Head of Department identified in the options booklet. For general questions (for example, about combinations of subjects), please contact the Head of Year or Deputy Headteacher, details below.

Choices are made on an electronic MS Forms document; we will send the link in the final week of this half term.

Best wishes



S Hind
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Ed Thomas
Deputy Headteacher
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Options Process Timeline

The table below outlines the key dates

Wednesday 22 January	Extended Assembly for Year 9 students Options Booklets issued Option Information Evening for Parents in Berkeley Theatre at 6.30pm MS Form sent for students to choose taster lessons for new subjects GCSE taster lessons begin within timetable
Week beginning 3 February	Taster lessons for new subjects, taster lessons within the timetable continue. Each student meets with Miss Hind, Ms Kelly Davies, Mr Thomas or Mrs Landeg to discuss choices and access additional support if needed. Thursday 6 February – Year 9 Parents’ Evening
Week beginning 10 February	Options form sent electronically to parents by email, completion deadline Monday 24 February
Week beginning 17 February	Half term break