

January 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Options Information Evening for Parents of Year 9 Students (9 RBS/CGM/JES/GRK)

Your son / daughter is approaching the time when they give us their preferences for the subjects they want to study at Key Stage 4. These dates are on the reverse of this letter.

To help you understand this process and obtain subject specific information, you are now invited to an Options event at the school on Wednesday 27th January 2016 which begins at 4.45pm and finishes at 6.30pm. During this evening, you will be able to attend a presentation which will explain the options process. In addition, there will be subject staff available to answer questions relating to courses on offer.

You are invited to attend a presentation in the school hall which begins at 6.00pm and will last for half an hour. You have the opportunity to talk to subject staff before the presentation.

Subject Preferences for Year 10 in September 2016

You will be aware that in Year 10 students are given some choice in the subjects they will study for GCSE. In order to ensure a balanced curriculum, all students continue Physical Education, which is not examined, and aspects of Personal and Social Education and Citizenship which leads to a GCSE in Religious Studies, together with GCSE courses in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. This core covers thirty periods of curriculum time allowing twenty periods for option choices.

Students will study four option subjects at GCSE. There are five option boxes and RE must be selected in one box. This will give greater flexibility in subject choice. Students will tell us on the options form what their subject preferences are. We will then work with them to ensure that they choose a balanced range of choices for Key Stage 4.

It is important that students meet the deadlines for the options form. If subjects are oversubscribed students may not be able to take that course and this is more likely if the form is late. If there are insufficient numbers to make the course viable then the course will not run.

Last month Ofsted praised our curriculum which is 'carefully tailored to meet the needs of pupils and supports their good achievement'. This evening is key in ensuring that we have the same success with Year 9 students. I hope that you find this information helpful, and we are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday 27th January 2015 for the presentation in the hall at 6.00pm.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Dean
Deputy Head

Year 9 Options Process 2016

Before completing the options form students should think carefully about their potential future pathways. If students are interested in study at Russell Group Universities it is worth their looking at *Informed Choices* on the Russell Group website. The National Careers website is also useful. They also have access to ECLIPS. ECLIPS is a programme that can be accessed by all students at home and in school. You can access by going onto www.eclipsonline.co.uk using the password POYNHS36.

Thursday 14th January Introductory work with students on making choices.

Between 18th January and 29th January Form Tutors will be working with students on their option choices. Time slots for counselling students who have concerns, or for those whom Form Tutors think will benefit, will be available with members of the Careers Department or Careers Advisers.

Wednesday 27th January Options Evening for parents 4.45 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday 3rd February Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 p.m.

Thursday 11th February Deadline for the return of forms to Form Tutors

Please note that the Options Information Evening on Wednesday 27th January is aimed at parents. Students will have already listened to an Options presentation and have the opportunity to talk to subject staff about courses during their normal lesson times over this Options period.