

Thursday 4th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

At this stage of Year 9, it is time to consider students' choices for KS4 and ultimately those subjects they will achieve their first external qualifications in. We know these are big decisions and would like to reassure students and parents that there will be a great deal of support on offer during the Year 9 Choices process, which is about to start. You will soon receive the Year 9 Choices booklet via Class Charts, followed by your child receiving a hard copy of it to bring home. This details all the qualifications we offer at KS4 (during Years 10 and 11) – some are compulsory, but there are a number of decisions to be made by your child about those additional subjects they wish to take.

To help you support your child in making these important decisions, we are holding a **Year 9 Choices Evening for parents and students on Thursday 18th January** from 6–8 pm. The evening will have two components: a brief presentation in the Main Hall where our choices process is outlined and a subject 'Marketplace' in the Sports Hall where subject leaders and staff will be on hand to answer any queries you may have. We would like to invite you and your child to the session below, according to your child's surname:

TIME	GROUP	VENUE	CONTENT
6.00 – 6.30 pm	Student Surnames A – K only	Main School Hall	Presentation from the Senior Leadership Team and Head of Year
6.30 – 7.15 pm	Student Surnames A – K only	Sports Hall	Subject 'Marketplace'
6.45 – 7.15 pm	Student Surnames L – Z only	Main School Hall	Presentation from the Senior Leadership Team and Head of Year
7.15 – 8 pm	Student Surnames L – Z only	Sports Hall	Subject 'Marketplace'

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

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Some key dates in the Choices process are:

8–12th January: Year 9 Choices assemblies – These are for students only and will inform students about those subjects at KS4 they won't have studied before or may be unfamiliar with.

18th January: Year 9 Choices Evening (for parents and students) – We look forward to seeing you there. Details on previous page.

19th February – 1st March: Year 9 Choices Interviews – These will take place with a senior member of staff. The purpose is to review the choices your child has made and to provide an opportunity for any further questions to be answered. Your child will be given a paper form when they receive the Choices booklet, they should complete the form and bring this form to this interview. Students will be informed of the interview date/time/location by their Form tutor in due course.

22nd February: Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4.30–7.30pm – As always Parents' Evenings are important in keeping you well-informed about your child's progress in their subjects, it will also be a good time to ask any additional questions you may have about Year 9 Choices. This will take place on the School Cloud.

8th March: Deadline for the Year 9 Choices form to be completed online via a link that will be sent to your child's school email. Parents should oversee the completion of this form to ensure they are aware of their child's choices. Students will receive the link during February half term.

Your child will be given a copy of the Choices booklet shortly (which will also be on the website under *Academic/Year 9 Choices*). This, along with the other support listed above, hopefully contains all the information they will need to make informed decisions about the subjects they wish to take in Key Stage 4. However, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Wagstaff (Head of Year 9) or myself.

Yours faithfully



Mr R. Johnson
Deputy Headteacher