

24th November 2017

To: Parents of Pupils in Year 9



Dear Parents,

I have recently started the planning process in regards to next year's GCSE Options. I would like your assistance in putting together an Options pattern, which I am hopeful will meet the needs of the whole cohort of pupils.

It is my intention to keep the core as English Language, English Literature and Maths. Added to this, there will be the usual selection of other subjects. These are **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Geography, History, Religious Studies, French, Spanish, Art, Food** and **Music or BTEC Music** (only one of these courses will run). There will also be an **XME (Functional Skills)** type course in English and Maths and a **Personal Development / Life Skills** course (Comprising of a L1/2 BTEC Food and a L1/2 ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness). We are also investigating the possibility of running **GCSE Physical Education**. Drama and Statistics are likely to be offered as ECAs.

As you will realise, it is a difficult task to get twenty-two pupils an exact match in terms of requests, so we start with an imperative of ensuring that there is a pathway that guarantees triple science, double humanities and a language. After that, we intend to offer as wider range of courses as possible, with the caveat that there is a minimum number of pupils needed for a course to run.

What I require to move forward with my planning, is an idea of which six options your child may be interested in, with the top two in their list being what you might regard as their 'critical pair' ranked 1 and 2. There is no intention to hold you or your child to these initial decisions. I will use the information when pairing options to attempt to meet the needs of all.

Important dates in the process –

- Option Booklets out before the end of term
- Options Afternoon – Monday 22nd January – 2pm
- Y9 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 31st January
- Return of Option choices to Mr Dean – Monday 12th February

As a final note, as we embark on this process I would like to say that I am duty bound to attempt to find the correct pathways for all pupils. This will be aided by an understanding of your child's potential and realistic outcomes for GCSEs. We are successful in ensuring pupil outcomes are good for their ability. This means that choosing all academic GCSEs may not always be the best approach for long-term success. Please discuss this letter with your child and return the form to Mr Dean by **Thursday 30th November**.

Yours sincerely

Mr Dean
Deputy Head



Name of Child _____

Please choose from the subjects highlighted above.

Option 1		} Critical Pair
Option 2		
Option 3		
Option 4		
Option 5		
Option 6		

Please return to Mr Dean by Thursday 30th November 2017



Hollygirt

SCHOOL

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