



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Ref: U:\HoY\9\Options Evening
January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Your son is now approaching Year 10 and will soon be making his optional subject choices for GCSE. We aim to deliver a broad and balanced education for students in Year 10 and Year 11, providing a sound base for transition and success in Post-16 studies and future life.

Your son's education will comprise compulsory examination subjects taking up approximately 55% of the week, compulsory non-examination subjects 10%, and optional examination subjects 35%.

Compulsory examination subjects are:

- Mathematics All students will study one GCSE in Mathematics. Some students will also study GCSE Further Mathematics.
- Science A Science course comprising Physics, Chemistry and Biology, certified as three GCSE grades.
- English Two GCSEs comprising both English Language and English Literature.

Compulsory non-examination lessons are:

- Religious Education
- Games
- Personal and Social Education

Optional examination subjects are:

In addition, your son will choose four options from:

Art, Business Studies, Computing, Design and Technology – papers and Boards, Design and Technology – Timbers, Food Preparation and Nutrition, French, German, Geography, History, iMedia, Music, Physical Education, and Religious Education.

We would anticipate that most students would choose one language and either Geography or History in their choice of options. The government introduced a performance indicator for schools called the English Baccalaureate, which measures the percentage of students in a school who pass five GCSEs at Grade 5 or above in English, Mathematics, Science a Modern Language and History or Geography. We always consider the individual strengths and needs of each student and recognise that this pathway will not be the correct choice for some students.

The process of making Optional Choices:

Year 9 Options Presentation

Please find attached a Year 9 options presentation detailing the process for choosing GCSE subjects. I would be grateful if you could watch this presentation with your son and then look at the subject information on the school website at [The King's School Grantham - Year 9 Options Evening - GCSEs](#)

Year 9 Parents' Evening

The Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 20 January between 4.15pm and 7.15pm. This will be a virtual evening with all appointments run as video appointments. Appointments with Form Tutors are not available on this evening. Miss Leek (Head of Year 9) will be available for appointments but we politely ask that you only make an appointment if there is an urgent issue you wish to discuss. Miss Leek can be contacted via email for any other issues.

Head Master: Simon Pickett BSc

The King's School, Brook Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6RP

T: 01476 563180 F: 01476 590953 E: admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk / finance@kings.lincs.sch.uk

www.kings.lincs.sch.uk



Appointments can be booked using the Parents' Evening System at <https://kingsgrantham.schoolcloud.co.uk/> Online booking will open for parents at 8:00pm on Wednesday 13 January. In order to access the meetings please use a compatible web browser (Safari, Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Firefox). Please note that it is not possible to access the meetings via Internet Explorer. Parents using Safari on an iPhone or iPad should ensure they have updated their software to iOS 14.3. Please note that the software will not work on iOS14.2. Where possible, students are expected to attend the evening and sit alongside their parents so they can take an active part in discussions.

Appointments are available on a first come, first served basis and we strongly advise that parents book early to avoid disappointment. If your son has more than one Subject Tutor you will be able to book appointments with the member of staff that teaches him for the majority of lessons. When you access the software, you may find that you already have an appointment scheduled with a member of staff. This is because the member of staff has requested an appointment. It is also important to point out that several staff teach multiple classes and it will therefore not be possible for every student to book an appointment.

We would also be grateful if parents would complete the annual parent questionnaire at: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JZ4f1tn1n0Gx4tZHC1lEdm9ysxan-R9Eqce5UXDKVOBUQU5EQIIVV1g5TVpGV0E3TIJKTVdMMIUTCQIQCN0PWcu>

Student Meeting

Every Year 9 student will have an individual meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss GCSE options between Monday 25 January and Friday 29 January via Microsoft Teams. We shall expect that he will have uploaded a completed Key Stage 4 application form to Unifrog prior to this meeting. We shall send Unifrog login details out to students in the week beginning 18 January.

Once students have a provisional programme of study, we will pass the information to Subject Leaders to ask for their opinion on course viability. We shall organise an additional meeting for any student who is deemed to be unsuitable for a subject. We must ensure that every student has a viable programme of study.

GCSEs are important to your son's future. They are more difficult, studied at a higher level and in more depth than Key Stage 3 subjects. Therefore, it is important that he chooses the right subjects and that he is happy, well-motivated and hard working from the outset. Success will only come from two years' hard work.

If there are any questions relating to this letter that you would like to discuss in more detail please do not hesitate to contact me. Miss Leek (Head of Year 9) will also support and guide your son through this process and will be happy to offer advice.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Dixon
Deputy Head Master