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December 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your son is now approaching Year 10 and will soon be making his optional subject choices for GCSE. We aim to provide a broad and balanced education for students in Year 10 & 11 and thereby provide a sound base for transition and success in A Level studies and future life.

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

Compulsory examination subjects are:

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

Compulsory non-examination lessons are:

Religious Education
Games
Personal and Social Education

In addition your son will choose four options from:

French, German, Geography, History, Music, Art, Resistant Materials, Religious Education, Graphics, Business Studies, Physical Education, Computing and ICT.

We would anticipate that most students would choose a language and either Geography or History in their choice of options. The government recently introduced a new 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 Careers Workshop

Your son will attend a Careers Workshop during the school day on either the 3 or 5 December depending on which form he belongs to. Each workshop will last one hour and normal lessons will continue around the workshops.

Students will complete interactive activities which will help them understand the links between Year 9 option choices and careers.

Year 9 Options Evening

There will be a Year 9 Options Evening on Monday 14 January at 6.30pm where we will issue the Key Stage 4 prospectus. This evening will provide you with essential information for your son's future success. Students are expected to attend the evening with a parent and I hope the evening will put them in a position where they will be able to make informed decisions of their own. We shall be asking parents to sign up for the presentations they wish to attend with their son prior to the evening. Presentations will be selected through an online booking system and we shall send a web link to parents after the Christmas holiday. **Due to limited space in the School Hall, we ask that only one parent attends with their son.**

