



# THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Ref: U:\HoY9\Options Evening  
17 December 2019

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 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 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

### **In addition your son will choose four options from:**

Art, Business Studies, Computing, Food Preparation and Nutrition, French, German, Geography, Graphics, History, iMedia, Music, Physical Education, Resistant Materials, 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 Evening**

**There will be a Year 9 Options Evening on Monday 13 January at 6.30pm where we will issue the Key Stage 4 prospectus.** We would appreciate it if all parents could be seated by 6.20pm. This evening will provide you with essential information for your son's future success. Students are expected to attend the evening with one parent and I hope the evening will put them in a position where they will be able to make informed decisions of their own.

Heads of Department will be delivering subject presentations in specific rooms in the Tower Block to talk to you about their subject and to pass on what I am sure will be invaluable help and support. These talks will take place every 15 minutes from 6.45pm to 8.30pm following the main presentation in the hall at 6.30pm. We ask that all parents sign up in advance for the main presentation and up to seven presentations using the online booking system. **Please login to <https://kingsgrantham.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/> by Thursday 9 January to select your presentations.** If you have any problems accessing the software please contact me on [justin.dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:justin.dixon@kings.lincs.sch.uk).

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## Year 9 Parents' Evening

**The Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 22 January between 4.15pm and 7.15pm.** This evening will enable you to discuss your son's progress and present a further opportunity for students and parents to gather the necessary information to assist them in making options for GCSE. Questions can be asked and, hopefully, answers given to any concerns that may be troubling you. By that date you will have had a chance to peruse the Key Stage 4 prospectus and discuss preliminary option inclinations. Appointments with Form Tutors and the Head of Year 9 are not available on this evening.

We shall be using the online appointment booking system to organise appointments. **Appointments can be made from 8.00pm on Friday 10 January. Please visit <https://kingsgrantham.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointments.**

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 a number of staff teach multiple classes and it will therefore not be possible for every student to book an appointment. All parents will receive an annual report later in the year so we politely ask that you do not contact individual members of staff to ask for feedback if you are unable to book an appointment.

All students are expected to attend the evening and sit alongside their parents so they can take an active role in discussions on their current progress and option choices. Staff will be seated in alphabetical order in the hall.

## Student Meeting

Every Year 9 student will have an individual meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss GCSE options between Monday 27 January and Friday 31 January. We shall expect that he will bring a completed Key Stage 4 application form with him to this meeting. The prospectus will have been distributed on the 13 January and I hope this will allow plenty of time for discussion at home. All students will need to have completed the application form by Monday 27 January.

Once students have a provisional programme of study we shall pass the information to Subject Leaders to ask for their opinion on course viability. We shall organise an additional interview 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. Mr Bufton (Head of Year 9) will also support and guide your son through this process and will be happy to offer advice to parents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Dixon'.

Justin Dixon  
Deputy Head Master