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Headteacher: Mr A Oliver, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQH

28 February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers:

RE: Year 9 Options 2025

I am writing to address any concerns you may have regarding the Year 9 options process. Unlike many local schools, we intentionally schedule this process later in the academic year to provide our students with ample time to make well-informed decisions about their future studies.

Our Approach to the Options Process

We believe that by allowing students more time, they can better understand their strengths, interests, and aspirations before making crucial choices about their Key Stage 4 subject choices. This approach ensures that each student selects subjects that align with their abilities, goals and passions, leading to greater engagement and success in their studies.

Ongoing Taster Sessions

To assist students in making these important decisions, we are currently conducting options taster sessions. These taster sessions happen on a rota. Therefore, it is important that we wait until the summer term so that students can make informed choices based upon their experiences in all aspects of the curriculum that will be on offer to them.

Option Blocks

The option blocks change every year due to a number of factors, such as cohort capabilities, staffing, financial considerations and student preferences. With so many unknowns at this point, the blocks have not yet been created. It is important that parents and students understand that there will be no guarantee that students will be able to pursue the exact combination of subjects that they want. There will be an element of guidance and compromise which we will address later in the year when I have more clarity on what the school can offer.

Key Dates

- W/c 5th May - Options Assembly for Year 9 Students
- Wednesday 14th May - Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options Information Evening

I look forward to working with you and your child on the options process later on this academic year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P Bland', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr P Bland
Deputy Headteacher

