



25th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

After Easter we will be sharing with students the option choices for GCSEs and BTEC courses that they will study in Years 10 and 11. The options booklet will be available on the school website on Wednesday 7th April.

In the first few weeks of the new term students will explore with their tutors the choices available to them. Tutors and subject leads will provide information about the different pathways and subjects they can take. During students' tutor sessions they will have presentations about the various subjects available to them and they will be given opportunities to ask questions about each subject and the best pathways available to them.

It will not be possible to hold a conventional Open Evening for parents and students. Instead, we will make available subject presentations and guidance on making the right choices. We will also hold a live albeit virtual question and answer session on Tuesday 4th May. Parents will be able to hear presentations and ask questions to teachers about the option choices they are offering. I will require students to submit their choices to me by the Wednesday 18th May. This is as late as I can possibly manage.

Date	Event
7 th April 2021	Options booklet uploaded to school website
Term 5 – (w/c 12 th April)	Options choices GCSE and BTEC shared with students
4 th May 2021	Virtual Q&As virtual session – more info to follow
18 th May 2021	Deadline to submit choices

The reason I have delayed this process is to give students as much time as possible back in regular lessons in school. As you are aware the health and safety constraints and lockdowns this academic year have made running the Year 9 Design and Technology and Creative Arts subjects particularly tricky. We have decided that it is best to rotate the students' current choice the week beginning 17th May as this will provide enough weeks to complete meaningful practical projects in each of the subjects they are following. Unfortunately, this does not fit particularly well with the KS4 options timeline. It is important therefore that they talk with teachers carefully during the options process to ensure that they make the choices that are right for them.

Yours faithfully

Sara Fletcher – Vice Principal Curriculum, Teaching & Learning



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