



15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

### GCSE Options Choices 2021-2023

Happy New Year! I hope that you are well and that you have had an opportunity to relax over the festive period. I am writing to update you on the GCSE Guided Choices process for Year 9 students. Please rest assured that we will continue to make progress with this during this period of home learning.

As students enter Key Stage 4 we provide support and guidance as to what we believe would be the most effective curriculum for them to study during Year 10 and 11, and beyond. We base this guidance on a number of factors – internal performance data, Attitude to Learning grades and staff knowledge of their development alongside conversations with students. From this information, each student will have a set of recommended subjects.

Later this term, students will have a guidance meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss these recommended subjects alongside future aspirations and ambitions. A proposal for subjects to be followed; with reserves, will be put forward.

Once completed for every student, we will model the curriculum for next year. Some courses can become too full and we may have to restrict places - in this case we will use our data and understanding of the individual students to help us decide who should follow which course. Conversely, if a course does not have sufficient numbers to make it viable, we may have to withdraw it and place students into one of their reserve subjects.

Over the next term we will work on rolling out the Guided Choices 2021 programme with additional subject guidance materials available to support the process. Please bear with us as we build these additional resources as with many things – producing these remotely will require additional time.

Thank you for your support and encouragement as we complete this process. It is often an uncertain time for students, and any support we can offer helps them to focus and settle on an effective set of choices for their future. Once the process is complete, we will be in touch later in the year to confirm exactly which subjects your child will be studying.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D. Nicholls  
Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum and Staffing