



2nd March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

GCSE Guided Choices Update 2021-2023

With children starting to return to schools next week, I wanted to update you on the GCSE Guided Choices process for our Year 9 students. As students enter Key Stage 4 (KS4) 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.

Over the past year, we have reviewed our GCSE curriculum and how to best meet the needs of our learners. Based on this, we are offering students the opportunity to follow three chosen subjects in addition to their core curriculum in Years 10 and 11. More information about these choices will be published to families in the next few weeks, and will be available for you to look through in advance of choices being made.

During the last half term we have consulted with our staff about their thoughts on suitable choices. Students will have a guidance meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss the range of subjects we are offering as a school, alongside their future aspirations and ambitions. We have gathered a range of information to discuss at each meeting to ensure that students are selecting a rigorous KS4 curriculum, to support their aspirations and career intentions. From this meeting each student will put forward three rank-ordered firm choices and at least two reserve choices.

Once completed for every student, we will then 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 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.

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,

D. Nicholls
Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum and Staffing