

To: All Parents/Carers of students in Year 9

Our ref: 872751

7 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Key Stage 4 Curriculum

I am writing to let you know about our process this year for helping Year 9 students make the transition to Key Stage 4, including choosing their options subjects. In the past we have held an Information Evening for parents and carers in early December, on the same day that we have launched the process in school with students. The process is a little different this year, following the launch of our new Community and Personal Studies programme. In their lessons recently, students have been exploring the following areas:

- Planning their decision year
- Considering their 'network' of useful contacts to help with decisions
- Personal skills, qualities, interests and career matches for these
- Learning styles and courses that link to these
- Local, national and international labour market information

In January we normally look forward to inviting all parents, carers and students to our Pathways Evening. This is an opportunity to meet with teachers and current students from each of our subject areas, as well as representatives from local businesses, colleges and universities, the armed forces, and careers guidance colleagues.

To ensure that this experience can still take place whilst maintaining everyone's safety, the event will take place online, and it will be through this event that we will provide the information normally presented in our Information Evening. This will include confirmation of the choices available to students, the timeline for the process, important contacts for parents and carers as well as students, and answers to a number of frequently asked questions. There will also be welcome videos from each of our subject areas, allowing an insight in to their courses, qualifications and the experiences students can expect over Years 10 and 11. The event is currently in production and will be launched early in January. Once available, the event will remain on our website so that it can be accessed at student, parent and carer convenience.

Alongside the event, additional support is in place in school throughout the year. We will provide every student with a Key Stage 4 Curriculum Guide that gives details on the process of choosing Key Stage 4 subjects, as well as details of all of our courses including the topics covered, how they are assessed and where they can lead to. Year 9 students can request a careers appointment at any time by contacting their Head of House. They can also speak to any of their current subject teachers about their courses. If students have questions regarding subjects that they do not currently study, contact details for someone in school that they can speak to will be included in the guide.

I hope Year 9 students enjoy the process and are looking forward to our online event, as well as choosing some of the courses they will study for the first time. I will be in touch again soon to confirm the details of the event, but in the meantime, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas season.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Gray', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Barry Gray
Deputy Headteacher