

To: All Parents/Carers of students in Year 9

Our ref: 8739177

8 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Key Stage 4 Curriculum

I hope this finds you well. Since my last letter, developments nationally have meant a very different start to the Spring Term for Year 9 students than we envisaged. We are however continuing with our Key Stage 4 Curriculum preparations, albeit with some further changes to the process, which are outlined below.

We are producing a paper copy of our Key Stage 4 Curriculum Guide for all students, and will post these to home addresses as recorded on our database within the next few days. The guide has information on all of the courses that we offer and is designed to help students with their decisions, offering details of courses, colleagues who can be contacted for advice and links to further information on each subject area and related careers. Please speak to your House Office if the guide has not arrived with you by Monday 25 January 2021. An electronic copy of the guide will also be available on our website.

Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum and Pathways Virtual Event will be launched on Thursday 14 January 2021 and will also be available through the school website. As outlined in my previous letter, 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 into their courses, qualifications and the experiences students can expect over Years 10 and 11.

Remember that Year 9 students can request a telephone or Teams careers appointment at any time by contacting their Head of House. They can also email 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 are included in the guide.

For reference, the key dates in the process are as follows:

- Friday 8 January 2021 Key Stage 4 Curriculum guide posted to students
- Wednesday 13 January 2021 A Half Progress Evening online
- Thursday 14 January 2021 Key Stage 4 Curriculum online launch
- Thursday 21 December 2021 B Half Progress Evening online
- Monday 1 February 2021 Options form available online
- Monday 22 February 2021 Final deadline for completion of options form

Finally, although the process is a little more socially distanced than normal, I am sure students, parents and carers will find accessing the virtual event and confirming their choices relatively straightforward. I am also aware however that some of the discussions that will go on at home about the decisions that students are making may not be so harmonious, and in this I wish everyone involved in the process the best of luck!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Gray', with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Barry Gray
Deputy Headteacher