

January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Options process

We are approaching the time when Year 9 students make their subject choices for Key Stage 4. Whilst this can be a complex process, we hope that you will be able to gather the information needed to support your child in making these decisions.

From the start of this term, Subject Teachers, Tutors and the Careers Department will be advising students about options choices. During the week commencing **25th January**, they will be able to access an assembly on Teams outlining the choices they can make, following which they will be receiving a link to the Options Booklet, giving full details of all courses. If your son/daughter is routinely accessing their form time remotely, this will be a great help in making sure they are aware of the relevant course information.

As the usual **Options Information Evening** for parents cannot take place this year, a recorded presentation will be distributed to parents on **Wednesday 24th February**. This recording will explain the Key Stage 4 choices and procedures in more detail, and is aimed primarily at parents, rather than students.

This Options presentation will be followed by an online **Parents' Evening on Thursday 4th March**, where you will be able to discuss your child's progress further with their subject teachers; this provides another opportunity to ask specific subject based questions regarding options choices. For subjects that are new to the Year 9 students, such as Business or Drama, subject representatives will be available at the Parents' Evening to discuss any questions you may have. Year 9 Progress Reviews have already been sent home and these will also inform your discussions with subject teachers.

We would ask that all course requests be submitted by **Thursday 18th March** by completing the online Options form (link in Options Booklet). Any requests to change options after this date should be made in writing to Mr Bean, Head of Year 9.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R McQuire
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR

Tel: 01423 885814 • Fax: 01423 884327 • Email: admin@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk