



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

19 January 2024

Dear year 9 Parents and Carers

We are at the point in the academic year where we consider which KS4 courses year 9 pupils will choose and how the choices work. This week, Mr Holdsworth gave an initial assembly to the year group to get them thinking about their options in this respect. He outlined the important things to consider when making choices, such as which subjects can open doors in the future and the subjects in which the students already have a relative strength. There are also subjects on offer which are not taught at KS3 and so these Heads of Subject will be speaking to the year group in assemblies over the next couple of weeks to pass on key information.

Students in year 9 are working with careers and in tutor groups to consider choices more generally, and we hope that this will help to prepare them for the decisions they need to make this year. An electronic 'Options booklet' is currently being finalised with full details of all subjects on offer and how to choose them. This will be sent home for you to look at with your year 9 student, ahead of the Options evening in school (Wed 28th Feb) and the parent/carer consultation on Monday 4th March. Final options choices will be submitted later in March.

If you are familiar with how the options process has worked in the past, you will notice two main changes this year; the first is that the maximum number of GCSEs will be 10, rather than 11. We are hoping that this will reduce the burden on the students whilst still giving them maximum choices later on. The second change is that we will ask them to choose subjects from columns rather than giving free choice. In reality, we are hoping to still meet the majority of students' first choices, but as has always been the case, it may not always be possible. Mr Holdsworth has communicated these two changes to the students this week and shown them an example of the options columns, but this will be finalised prior to the publication of the booklet and you will be able to see this when it is sent home.

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with questions throughout the options process, either by contacting Mr Holdsworth (d.holdsworth@staidans.co.uk) or Mr Alker (p.alker@staidans.co.uk) or myself (r.mcquire@staidans.co.uk).

Kind regards

Mrs R E McQuire

Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover

