



JW/kjm

November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Years 8, 9 and 10 Options

In key stage 4 (years 9-11) pupils will have to take options subjects. They will sit these at the end of each year and then choose a new set of options for the following year. In year 9 they will sit one GCSE and in years 10 and 11 they will choose two further options in each year.

In year 9 there are different options available to the two halves of the year (students who study a language and non-language students). In years 10 and 11 all options will be available to all students.

Throughout KS4 your son/daughter will also study a core set of subjects. (Mathematics, English, Science, PE and RE).

In year 10 there will be additional support given to review options and outcomes already achieved. Pupils will meet with the key stage co-ordinator or members of the SLT to ensure that they choose the options that give them the best chance to secure the results they need for the next stage of their lives.

We ask all students to rank their preferences 1-5 and we will endeavour to ensure that pupils will be allocated to their chosen options in each year. Across the three years, they will be given their first choice at least once.

Students will be given help and advice throughout the process to support them to make good choices. This will include the following –

- An options assembly
- **Options Evening** for the current year 8, 9 and 10 at **6pm on Thursday 1st December** where you and your child will have the opportunity to meet the different subject specialists and find out more about the different option choices.
- Year 8 and 9 students will attend a one hour theatre presentation called 'Steps to Success' provided by Essex Outreach Network on Friday 2nd December.
- Tutors will also discuss options with their tutor group to ensure they are thinking carefully about their choices.
- **Parent Consultation Day on Monday 23rd January** for year 9 and **Parent Consultation Day on Thursday 23rd March 2017** for years 8 and 10 where parents and students will have the opportunity to discuss progress with their subject teachers. They will also be able to make appointments with teachers delivering their possible option choices, to check their choices are correct before any final allocations are made.

The options booklet, detailing all courses available, is to be found in the KS4 section of the school website.

Please use the attached form to indicate your child's options choices by placing the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 by the subjects in **both columns**, please submit this form **Monday 19th December** to tutors.

Throughout this decision making period, please feel free to approach any member of staff for advice. If you feel that you would like to discuss the options process in more detail for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Degge
KS3 Co-ordinator



Mr J Williams
KS4 Co-ordinator



My Options Choices

Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Language studied so far: Spanish / French / None (please circle)

Year 8:

- Those who **study a language** select 5 from **option block A** in rank order 1-5.
- Those who do **not study a language** select 5 from **option block B** in rank order 1-5.

Year 9 and 10:

- Years 9 and 10 select 5 options from **both blocks** in rank order 1-5.

Options A Rank order 1-5 (1 being your most preferred)		Options B Rank order 1-5 (1 being your most preferred)	
BTEC Performing Arts – Acting		BTEC Performing Arts – Acting	
Art		Art	
Geography		Geography	
History		History	
PE		PE	
Business Studies		Animal Care – City & Guilds Level 2	
ICT		Dance	
Media Studies		Design Technology – Product Design	
Music		Food Preparation and Nutrition	
Photography		Health and Social Care	
Religious Studies – Ethics and Philosophy Level 3		Extended Project Qualification Level 3	
Key Skills – supporting Level 2		Key Skills – supporting Level 2	

Student please sign:

Parent/carer please sign:

Please return this form to tutors by Monday 19th December 2016