

January 2017

Dear Parent

**Year 9 Options Evening 19 January 2017**

I am writing to give you details of our GCSE options process for 2017.

As you will be aware there is a core curriculum for GCSE study and in addition to this, students choose a range of optional subjects. In order to help your child choose their options for next year we plan a number of events.

- Students have already had an introductory talk and presentations in all subject areas about the GCSEs or alternative qualifications each department offers.
- **On Wednesday 11 January** we will be holding Year 9 parents' evening. This will be your opportunity to discuss your child's progress and will add to the information gathering process. There is a separate letter about this attached.
- **On Thursday 19 January** all students will receive the options booklet, which will detail the process and the subjects available. Please do take the time to read this through with your child. There will be an electronic copy available on the website for reference, along with a copy of the options form in case your child misplaces these documents. There will be spare documents available at pupil reception also.
- **Options evening for students and parents is on Thursday 19 January from 6.30pm to 8pm.** The evening will start with a presentation in the hall at 6.30pm. This will describe the options process and the new GCSEs. There will then be the opportunity to meet with all subject leaders to discuss each subject in greater detail. It is very important that you and your child attend this event, so that your child is able to make well-informed decisions in the coming weeks.
- **Options forms** need to be returned to school by **Wednesday 8 February.**
- I will then meet with any student who may need additional advice and guidance and talk to you about any difficulties we have in meeting your child's preferences. All students with additional special educational needs will be seen by our careers advisor and any student can make an appointment with Mrs Mangnall or Mrs Evans, our school careers team by visiting the careers office opposite the library any lunchtime.
- We will then write to you by the end of the spring term, confirming your child's option choices.

Our aim throughout the coming weeks is to ensure that students have a clear understanding of what each subject entails and what the expectations and demands of each course will be. We want them to remain as open-minded as possible at this stage and to choose subjects that they will enjoy and succeed at. Most young people do not have a clear idea about what they want to do in the future and this is entirely normal. We would simply wish, therefore, that they follow a broad and balanced curriculum and continue to enjoy their learning. However, if your child has a very specific degree or career in mind, you may find it helpful to look at university entry requirements and details of facilitating subjects:

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk). [www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk)

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email [khiggins@chapelhigh.org.uk](mailto:khiggins@chapelhigh.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you on 11 and 19 January.

Yours faithfully

**Karen Higgins**  
**Assistant Headteacher**