

## Options process 2021

Dear Parent

I am contacting you with details of our GCSE options process for 2021. Like everything else connected with school at the moment, this is going to have to work a little differently.

The process will start on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. You have plenty of time to make your choices, we do not need you to tell us your option choices until **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

We will post you an options booklet with full details of subjects available and the options process. On the options page of the school website, you will find:

- An electronic copy of the options booklet.
- A video version of the options talk Mr Grieves would normally give in the hall explaining the process. **It is important that you watch this before starting to choose options.**
- Short videos from each department in school explaining the option subjects that they offer. Each option subject has an individual video for you to watch and help inform your choices.

We would recommend that you read the options book and watch Mr Grieves' video that explains the process. Then watch the subject videos for any subjects you might be considering studying. Be open minded, there might be something you haven't thought of that would be a good choice for you. Mr Grieves has also added a page to the options booklet giving his advice on how to choose subjects. This is worth reading.

Year 9 parents' evening will take place remotely on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. This is a normal parents evening where you can discuss your progress in each subject with your teachers. You can also ask them questions about doing the subject as an option. On parents' evening you will be also be able to make an appointment with a senior member of staff to ask any questions you might have about the options process. Details of the parents evening and the system for making appointments will be sent out separately.

We will run options sessions for students using Microsoft Teams, during the w/c **8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. Here we will explain to students how the process works. These sessions will take place in what would normally be tutor time. We will invite year 9 students to join these sessions through Teams.

Some students, for example those who are based in learning support and those who may need significant additional support with literacy, will have a slightly more personalised curriculum. We will be in touch with the parents of students concerned over the next few weeks to discuss possible option choices.

Options choices need to be returned to school using an online form. We aren't giving students this form until after year 9 parents' evening. We don't want them making snap decisions! Students can use the form with the options book to record what they think their options are going to be. They can then fill in the online form when we release it.

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. Most young people do not have a clear idea about what they want to do in the future, this is entirely normal. We would simply wish, therefore, that they follow a broad and balanced curriculum and continue to enjoy their learning. **We would ask that you take careful note of the information in the options book about the English Baccalaureate subjects, including modern languages, and about the advice around choosing a science**

**option. These decisions can be important depending on your plans for the future.** Further advice is in the options booklet.

I will write to you, after the Easter holiday, confirming your child's option choices. If we are unable to meet your child's preferences, we will liaise with you and your child to explain the alternatives.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email

[sdavies@chapelhigh.org.uk](mailto:sdavies@chapelhigh.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

**Sharon Davies**  
**Assistant Headteacher**