



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

15 January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 9 students

GCSE Options Process & Information Evening (Tuesday 26th February, 7.00pm)

This term your son/daughter will make decisions about the subjects they will study to GCSE level. In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) students study compulsory core subjects, but they also have an element of choice that allows them to personalise their curriculum (option subjects). Careful consideration should be given to option choices to ensure that your son/daughter enjoys their studies, is successful in their GCSE courses and gains suitable qualifications for study or employment post-16.

The process outlined below will offer you and your son/daughter the necessary guidance to make these important decisions.

- (i) Introduction to the GCSE options process in assembly on Tuesday 15th January 2019 and issuing of the options booklet. The options booklet will also be available on the school website (Curriculum – GCSE Options).
- (ii) **GCSE Options Information Evening on Tuesday 26th February 2019, 7.00pm**, for students and parents. Further information about this event is given below.
- (iii) **Year 9 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 13th February 2019, 4:30-7:30pm**, where you can discuss possible choices with subject tutors.
- (iv) **Completed 'GCSE subject choice form' submitted to form tutor on Friday 1st March 2019.**
- (v) Option choices confirmed (April/May). Prior to confirmation, some students will meet with a senior member of staff or Head of Careers to discuss their option subjects.
- (vi) In September/early October you will be invited to the Year 10 Curriculum Evening. The evening provides further information about assessment at Key Stage 4 and offers guidance on how you can support your son/daughter during their GCSE studies.

We recognise that for a small number of students a full programme of GCSEs may not be appropriate and an adapted curriculum will allow them to achieve more highly in the qualifications they do study. If we would advise a differentiated curriculum for your son/daughter, myself or Ms Absalom will be in contact to explain the options available and to arrange to meet with you at Parents' Evening.

GCSE Options Information Evening, Tuesday 26th February 2019, 7:00pm–9:30pm

This evening provides an overview of the Key Stage 4 curriculum and allows you to find out more detail about the GCSE option subjects your son/daughter is considering studying next year.

The evening will start with an overview of the Key Stage 4 curriculum presented by Mrs Berks, Ms Absalom and Mr Tookey. There will also be presentations from Ms O'Donnell, Head of MFL, and Ms Hooper, Head of Science. You are then invited to attend up to four 20-minute subject presentations given by subject leaders of option subjects. These presentations will allow you to find out more about the GCSE courses your son/daughter is considering studying.

During the evening Mrs Berks, Mr Tookey and Ms Absalom will be available if you wish to discuss any aspect of the options process.

The following presentations will run during the evening:

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology: Electronic & Mechanical Systems specialism
- Design & Technology: Graphic Design and Product Design specialisms (*please note, these specialisms are presented together to allow students to understand the difference between them and make a more informed decision about which specialism is right for them*)
- Design & Technology: Textiles specialism
- Drama
- Business and Economics (*please note, these subjects are presented together to allow students to understand the similarities and differences between them and make a more informed choice as to which subject is right for them*)
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education (GCSE course)
- Religious Studies

Please ensure that you have read the GCSE Options Information booklet before deciding which subject presentations you wish to register for.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 26th February at 7.00pm.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Berks
Assistant Headteacher