

13 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

GCSE Options Process & Information Evening (Thursday 6 March, 6.00pm)

This term, your child will make decisions about the subjects they wish to study for GCSE. 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 child enjoys their studies, is successful in their GCSE courses and gains suitable qualifications for study or employment post-16.

Students will be given a hard copy of the Options Booklet this week and it is also available on the school website, under [Academic](#). The process outlined below will offer you and your child the necessary guidance to make these important decisions.

1. Introduction to the GCSE options process in assembly on **Wednesday 15 January 2025**.
2. GCSE Options Information Evening on **Thursday 6 March 2025, 6.00pm - 8.30pm**, for students and parents/carers. Further information about this event is given below.
3. Year 9 Consultation Evening (online) on **Tuesday 18 March 2025, 4.30pm - 7.30pm**.
4. Complete the 'GCSE subject choice form' and submit it online by **Monday 24 March 2025**.
5. Option choices confirmed (May). Prior to confirmation, some students will meet with a senior member of staff or our Careers Advisor to discuss their option subjects.

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 child, a member of the Curriculum Support team will be in contact to explain the options available.

GCSE Options Information Evening (Thursday 6 March, 6.00pm – 8.30pm)

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

The evening will start with an overview of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. 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 child is considering studying. To ensure that you are able to attend the sessions you are interested in, you must register by **Friday 31 January**. **Please complete [this form](#) to register.**

During the evening, I will be available if you wish to discuss any aspect of the options process.

The following presentations will run during the evening:

- Art & Design
- Art Textile Design
- Computer Science

Headmaster: Mr Michael Jones BA Med

High Elms Lane, Garston, Herts WD25 0UU

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- 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*)
- Drama
- Business
- Economics
- 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 also ask you to spend time talking to your child about the page 15 matrix to help them decide which option is best for them.

We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 6 March.**

Yours sincerely



Mr A Baker
Deputy Headteacher