

Year 9 Options Evening Notes

Mr Peter Keogh

A huge thank you to everyone for everything they are completing at home

It is important to recognise that it is difficult and challenging for everyone right now

It is difficult for students to be in front of screen all day without the interaction with peers and school staff

There is a change of focus for our young people – using Teams and personal organisation

It is important to remember we are all here for your children and you

Communication is key at this time – use the questionnaire, email tutors, call into school – share with us so we can all support

We are all learning all the time – lots of functions on Teams such as Dictate and Immersive Reader that staff are now aware of and are signposting students to in order to help with work

There is lots of advice on the website, weekly bulletin and twitter – please, if you can, take time to read

As a year group lots of feedback that is positive and shows students are attending lessons, engaging in learning and submitting work

Choosing options is important and is great to see so many people here to find out more

Mrs Becky Arnold

Thank you for coming along this evening

Information we have shared up to now is on the school website – either follow the pop up on the welcome screen or use the search function

Videos and the Options booklet

Students have also had input in PSHE lessons and in tutor time

Other key function we have for supporting is Unifrog – there is access for parents and students on this. Mrs Anna Harvey shared how to log on and best ways to use for Y9s. (please see slides)

Aspects of Options different this year – Triple Science is now route for all students from Y9 to Y11, if we need to make adaptations in Y11 to move students to combined Science we will. By allowing additional time for Science for all students we are meeting guided learning hours (which we have not for combined Science). We will also be able to place PSHE within the curriculum rather than in Knowledge Building Days. Our view is that the events of the past year mean that children should have a regular input of PSHE with a teacher they can build a relationship with. Options are not within blocks and we want students to select what is right for them.

Ebaac remains a route some students may wish to take – this is not an additional qualification but the name given to a group of subjects taken together (English, Maths, Science, a foreign language and history or geography). The DfE have in recent years encouraged students to follow this choice

pathway. This route is available at Fram and it will be useful to use Unifrog to see if this route is required for future courses and careers

Mr Dan Keates

Reminders on what makes a good choice for a GCSE Option! (please see slides)

Mr James Edwards

Exploration of how to complete the options form which goes live this evening.

There is no preferential treatment if you are first to complete the form. However, if you miss the deadline it can cause problems.

If you do not get your top 3 options you will be contacted by a member of SLT or Mr Keogh to discuss alternative courses. We recognise that choosing an alternative may depend on what you are unable to complete.

The process of selection is linked to availability of courses, student preference and teacher views. Food, DT and Drama are often over subscribed and we cannot go over numbers due to Health and Safety restrictions within rooms. We do not recommend students do both DT Product Design and DT Food OR Art and Textiles.

Questions:

What is Further Maths? A GCSE qualification for those students working towards a Grade 7 to 9 for GCSE Maths. It is for those keen on Maths and is a great bridge for those who plan to take ALevel Maths.

Who can take Further Maths? It is a Period 6 programme and for those students who are working towards a Grade 7 to 9 for GCSE Maths.

What is the Ebaac? A name given to a combination subjects (English, Maths, Science, History OR Geography and a Modern Foreign Language). This is not a separate qualification.

Is GCSE Dance in the 1 to 6 Options choices? No – it is a later question as children complete this instead of Core PE. In GCSE Dance students will cover a mixture of theory and practical and will be assessed in both of these elements.

Is DT Product Design a woodwork based course? [Year 9 GCSE Product Design Options talk \(loom.com\)](#) this short video gives a thorough overview of the Product Design GCSE

Is the Ebaac required for local Sixth Forms? Most focus on gaining 6 Grade 6s and above as well as Grade 6 in subjects selected to study at A Level. You can check on Unifrog.

Is RE a GCSE Option? No. We offer GCSE Citizenship as part of our Core.

Are aspects of Citizenship and Geography the same? No – although there may be some knowledge that is usefully shared between the two subjects.

What is difference in the two PE courses on offer? One is a vocational qualification that has more content linked to the world of work and is assessed in a module fashion; the other is a traditional GCSE which has a greater focus on a terminal exam assessment

Why are there no option blocks? Students select what they want and we will create the option blocks