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Headteacher: Mr M. Warren

8th January 2018

Dear Yr 9 Parents/Carers

GCSE Options 2018-2020

As mentioned in my letter inviting you to attend the GCSE Option Forum on 24th January 2018, you will be asked to specify by the start of next half term which GCSE subjects your daughter would definitely like to study at Key Stage 4 in addition to the Core Curriculum. Details of all the subjects studied in the Core Curriculum, as well as those offered as Option Choices, are given in the Year 9 Options Booklet which I have distributed again with this letter, which you may wish to bring with you if you are planning to attend the Forum. It is also available to view on the website.

Your daughter will be asked to choose at least **one** Modern Foreign Language and at least **one** of the Humanity subjects (defined as History and Geography) in order that she will be eligible to qualify for the English Baccalaureate introduced by the Government. She will also choose **two** other subjects to study at GCSE from the attached list of courses, which could include an additional Humanity or Modern Foreign Language(s), if desired. A small number of students, however, will be advised at their senior management consultation, which will take place over the next ten days, that they are eligible to make slightly different curriculum choices from this if they wish.

All students will study the following Core GCSE Curriculum:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| English Language | Mathematics |
| English Literature | Religious Studies (short GCSE course) |
| Science | Physical Education (non-examination) |

Your daughter is being asked to choose **four** other subjects from the attached list to study at GCSE, which should comprise one Modern Foreign Language Option, one Humanity Option and two Free Options (unless she has been advised otherwise, as mentioned above). In order to structure the option blocks in a way that will allow as many students as possible to be able to select their 4 preferred subjects from the four blocks, we are asking you **to indicate** your daughter's 4 preferred GCSE option choices on the attached form, following the GCSE Option Forum on Wednesday 24th January and your daughter's consultation with a senior member of staff. These choices should be written **in order of preference**, together with a Free Option reserve choice, from the list of subjects given at the top of the form. Once all these Option indications have been received, the subjects will be allocated to four option blocks for timetabling purposes. Your daughter will receive these blocks in early February, when she will be asked to confirm her choices.

One subject is **not** available to all students as a Free Option choice, namely, Third Science. Your daughter can only choose this subject if she has been informed by her Science teacher that she is eligible to take three separate Science GCSEs. Girls may only take **one** of the two Technology subjects (Graphic Products and Textiles). She may only choose German, Italian, Russian or Spanish as a Modern Foreign Language Option if she has studied it previously in Year 9.

I would emphasise that your daughter is **not committed** to these choices and may make different choices in February on the option block form. In addition, one or more of these subjects may not be available in the blocks, if insufficient demand exists for the subject.

Thank you for your assistance. Your daughter should return the form to her form tutor by **Friday 2nd February, at the latest**, following the GCSE Option Forum when you will be able to discuss her choices and core curriculum with subject staff.

Yours sincerely

Julie Stephenson
DHT Curriculum

Provisional GCSE Option Subjects 2018

**Your daughter should choose 4 of the following subjects
(to include 1 Language Option and 1 Humanity Option):**

| Free Options | Language Options | Humanity Options |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Art & Design BTEC Health and Social Care Business Computing Drama Food Preparation and Nutrition French Geography Graphic Products Technology History Music Physical Education Sociology Textiles Technology | French German Italian Russian Spanish | Geography History |
| Third Science (*) | | |

(*) Only if eligible

✂.....

Name

Form

GCSE Option Choice Indications (to comprise 1 Language Option, 1 Humanity Option and 2 Free Options) in order of preference:

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

Reserve: Free Option.....

Signed by Parents/Guardians.....

TO BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2018