



**The Priory School**

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4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

All students in Year 9 will be selecting their GCSE option subjects this term, which is an incredibly important milestone in their education. So that students make informed and considered choices, we offer a range of opportunities for advice, discussion and reflection. We know that you will want to support them with these important decisions, so we involve parents and carers in much of this process.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January, I will address Year 9 students in an assembly about the options process and they will be issued with the options booklet, which they will go through in a LIFE lesson and will then bring home.

Also on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January we will publish short videos for each option subject and a more general video about the KS4 curriculum on the school website so that you can watch them with your child. We would normally invite you in to school to deliver this information in person but, unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions prevent us from doing so. As the virtual replacement will not allow for a live question and answer session, we will be providing opportunities for students to ask questions of their subject teachers in lessons and if you have questions yourselves, please direct these to the relevant Head of Department via [info@tpstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@tpstrust.co.uk).

Every student will have a short 1:1 meeting to discuss their thoughts in the fortnight beginning 1<sup>st</sup> February. Most students will meet with me but some may meet with our SENDCo, Mrs White, or another member of the Senior Leadership Team where appropriate choices and pathways will be discussed. Your child's tutor will also be discussing the options process with them and will be offering advice and guidance about things such as the Ebacc, which I wrote to you about last term.

Year 9 reports will be issued on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February with a link to the online options choice form sent out to you on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, once all 1:1 meetings have taken place and time given for the virtual resources to be viewed. The final deadline for completion of the options form is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Discussions about the GCSE curriculum are already taking place in lessons and I would encourage students to be talking to teachers of subjects they are interested in pursuing at GCSE to gain as much information as possible, prior to the formal process beginning.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs C Knight,  
Deputy Headteacher