



The Priory School

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Dear parents/carers,

Further to my letter about the Year 9 Options process last term, we have now formally launched the options process with Year 9 today, in their Life lesson. They have watched my virtual assembly and received PDF copies of the options booklet, which contains information about the KS4 curriculum, the individual option subjects and the process they will go through.

From Monday 25th January, you will be able to access a dedicated section of our website, entitled 'Options Process 2021', under the 'Life at School' section.

This section of the website contains my welcome video and narrated PowerPoint, which explains the KS4 curriculum, the options process and some key considerations, followed by individual videos recorded by Heads of Department about each of the options subjects. I am sure you will understand that some of these had to be recorded after Christmas and therefore do not have student participation, but all of them should give you and your child a flavour of what the course will entail and address some key questions. Unlike our normal options evening where you would only be able to attend 3 or 4 talks, you can watch as many of the videos as you wish to inform your child's choices.

The options booklet and Microsoft Form, which we will be using to gather option choices, can also be found on this section of the website. The deadline for submissions of the form is Monday 22nd February 2021; we would ask that you do not submit the form until you have reviewed the documentation, read the Year 9 report and your child has had their 1:1 session.

This year, all students in Year 9 will have a short 1:1 session via Teams with either myself, Mrs Pope, Mrs Shaw or Mrs White in the fortnight beginning Monday 1st February. In this meeting, we will discuss thoughts about options, future plans and will provide guidance to students to assist them in making their choices. It is very important that students attend their meeting on time as we will be seeing all 168 students in under two weeks and it may not be possible to reschedule a meeting. Teachers are aware that students may need to leave a lesson for a short period of time to attend their meeting.

I would also encourage students to talk to their teachers about option subjects if they have any questions, and will be asking teachers to build short periods of time into the end of lessons to allow for this. If you have questions yourselves that your child cannot ask in lessons, please send them via email to info@tpstrust.co.uk, citing 'Year 9 options – [subject]'.

I hope that you find these resources helpful in assisting your child in making informed decisions; we are aware of the significance of this moment in their education and, indeed, their futures.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Knight
Deputy Headteacher