



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, your child will soon begin the process of selecting their GCSE option subjects. There will be a number of resources provided to support them in making this very important decision and I will be writing to you again to outline key dates in due course.

Whilst we have not yet formally launched the options process, we have recently begun conducting a 'dry run' in the Autumn term, where we gauge very initial thoughts about the options students are considering through a trial options form. There is absolutely no expectation that students will have researched different subject areas at this point, but it gives us a reasonable benchmark so that we can begin to shape the KS4 curriculum for next year. It will also enable meaningful one to one talks with individual Year 9 students and members of the senior leadership team once the options process has launched formally.

I will be launching this with students in an assembly this Friday to explain the process. The following week, students will have their Reflect and Progress appointment with their tutor, where they can begin to discuss their ideas about options. In the assembly, I will also be explaining what the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is as this has become an increasing focus for post-16 and post-18 education providers. A succinct guide to the EBacc can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761031/DfE_EBacc_Leaflet.pdf

Should you and your child wish to look at last year's resources in advance of them completing the options form in school, you can find these on the school website, on the 'Home' page:

<https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/life-at-school/options-process-2021/>

Whilst this is last year's information, it remains up to date with one exception, which is that there is no video for the Citizenship GCSE; previously, we have only offered this to a small number of students through the Personalised Learning route, which we will continue to run, but we are also considering adding it as a stand-alone GCSE in the standard 2-hour option block. The specification for the course can be found here if you are interested in learning more:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/citizenship/gcse/citizenship-studies-8100/specification-at-a-glance>

This initial dry run is for our information only and no student will be bound by the choices they select, although we would ask that they think carefully about the selections they make.

I will write to you again soon to outline the formal process in detail and issue key dates; we are still in the process of deciding whether the parent/carer evening event will be held in person or virtually but please be assured that there will be plenty of support for your child throughout.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Knight
Deputy Headteacher