

6 January 2023

Dear Parents,

Now that your son is coming to the latter stages of Key Stage 3, he will need to choose his GCSE options. On **Friday 20 January** he will bring home the booklet '**Middle School Years**' which explains the curriculum for Years 10 and 11 and gives detailed information about each subject.

You may have questions, of a general nature, about choosing subjects, Key Stage 4 or GCSE exams. We would like to invite you (one parent only per student due to seating restrictions in the Queen's Hall) and your son (in school uniform) to attend a short meeting on **Wednesday 25 January** from 5.00-6.30pm. The meeting will run as follows:

- 5.00-6.00pm Subject leaders of option subjects will be available to speak about the content of that subject (Queen's Hall, Junior Block, Music Room)
- 6.00-6.30pm Presentations (Queen's Hall)
 - The Curriculum in the Middle School / How to choose option subjects (Miss Munday)
 - Moving into Year 10 (Mr Gallagher)
- 6.30pm Individual Q&A

Please reserve a maximum of two tickets for this event via [Little Box Office \(one adult, one child\) here](#). If you are unable to attend but your son wishes to do so, please reserve him a place via Little Box Office.

Your son will prepare for GCSE examinations in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, a Modern Foreign Language, a Humanity (History and Geography), Physics, Chemistry, Biology and two other optional subjects. He will take the full course GCSE exam in these ten subjects in May/June 2025. All subjects are taught in mixed ability groups except for Mathematics and occasionally French (please refer to the booklet for more details).

GCSE options are listed below:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Art (Fine or Graphics) | Geography | Music |
| Classical Civilisation | German | Physical Education |
| Computer Science | History | Religious Studies |
| Design Technology | Latin | Spanish |
| French | | |

The following points must be considered and/or adhered to so that your son ensures he has a well-

balanced curriculum:

- All boys must choose **at least** one of French, German or Spanish (Modern Foreign Language)
- All boys must choose **at least** one of History or Geography (Humanity)
- No student can begin French, German, Spanish or Latin at this stage
- A student **can** choose Classical Civilisation, even if this has not been studied in Year 9
- A student cannot take Fine Art and Graphics

Shortly before the event your son will receive his login details via his school email for him to be able to enter his GCSE Option Choices online. It is important that he enters his choices **by 9.00am on Monday 30 January 2023** when the online form will close. At that point we will start processing and organising subjects into columns.

We will try to ensure that as many boys as possible are able to do the subjects they have opted for, **but we are unable to guarantee this**, and some will inevitably be disappointed. This is due to the limits of set size in specialist rooms and the restraints on the timetable from staffing resources. It is for this reason that we ask boys to choose carefully their order of preference and add a reserve option.

Please also note that if an option choice is oversubscribed we will be looking at Attitude to Learning and Attainment grades awarded during Years 8 and 9 in the first instance. The end of year exam (if taken in the subject) will also be used if we are still oversubscribed at that point. It is important your son realises this and shows us by his enthusiasm, commitment and achievement that his choices are the right ones for him.

Yours sincerely



Hilary Munday
Assistant Head