

21 January 2021

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 **Monday 25 January** we will send home in the bulletin the booklet '**Middle School Years**' which explains the curriculum for Years 10 and 11 and gives detailed information about each subject. **Those boys attending the Year 9 Immunisation Programme on Friday 22 January may take a hard copy away with them.**

You may have questions, of a general nature, about choosing subjects, Key Stage 4 or GCSE exams. As we are unable to run our usual Year 9 Options Evening, I will also be sending you a voiced over powerpoint presentation to listen to with your son. I hope this will answer many of your questions. If you have anything further you would like to ask having gone through the presentation, please do contact me, Mr Fossey (tmf@rgshw.com), the relevant Subject Leader or your son's Form Tutor for more information.

In Key Stage 4 your son will study Mathematics, English Language and Literature, a Modern Foreign Language, a Humanity (History or Geography), Physics, Chemistry, Biology and two other optional subjects. He will take the full course GCSE exam in these ten subjects in May/June 2023. All subjects are taught in mixed ability groups except for Mathematics and sometimes French (please refer to the booklet for more details).

GCSE options are listed below:

Art: Fine Art	French	Music
Art: Graphics	Geography	Physical Education
Classical Civilisation	German	Religious Studies
Computer Science	History	Spanish
Design Technology	Latin	

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 pupil can begin French, German, Spanish or Latin at this stage
- A boy **can** choose Classical Civilisation, even if he has not studied it in Year 9

From **Monday 25 January** onwards, your son will be able to enter his GCSE Option Choices online using the link via his SIMS Student App. If he does not currently have access to the Student App, he should go to his RGS email account where he will find an email inviting him to register. Once

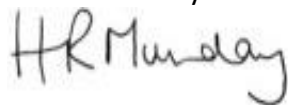
registered he will receive an account confirmation email with a link to both the Student App and Options online. If he still has problems accessing the Student App please contact Mrs Gamester (pg@rgshw.com), SIMS Manager, for assistance.

It is important that he, with your advice, enters his choices **by 9.00am on Monday 1 February 2021** at which time the online system will close and he will no longer be able to access the portal. Your son should submit his application without trying to tick the 'Parent/Carer Approval' box – it is not required and cannot be ticked. Immediately after the portal closes 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 first two subjects they have opted for in the Additional GCSE Choices section, **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 including a reserve choice.

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 one for him.

Yours sincerely



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