

Dear Parent / Carer

### **GCSE Choices and Future Pathways**

We know how important making the right GCSE choices is and so we want to ensure that both you and your son/daughter feel completely supported in this process. To this end, I just want to inform you of the upcoming events that your son/daughter will be participating in over the next few months, in terms of them preparing to make their GCSE choices and thinking about future pathways beyond Year 11.

Our aim this year is to help guide all Year 9 students in the subject choices they make for GCSE in terms of what they ideally want to be moving onto when they finish them, (Sixth Form, vocational courses, apprenticeships or work and training), so that the choices they make are informed and create the best fit for their future plans.

To do this, the Year 9 personal development lessons in December 2016 will focus on the use of 'eClips' our new and easy to use online careers resource that provides regularly updated information on over 1,000 jobs and careers. The site also offers advice on topics relating to options at different key stages, in terms of education, training, employability skills, job seeking and lifestyle choices and is accessible from home via the school website. Please go to careers //Careers Guidance Year 8-11, password WGS17.

Then, in January and February 2017, these lessons will focus on making connections between different subjects and career options. In addition, students will also be issued with an Options booklet which will contain all relevant information regarding GCSE courses and every subject will be delivering GCSE 'tasters', so that students get a flavour of what to expect if they choose that subject. For those subjects which are new to Year 10 and not previously studied in Years 7-9, additional taster lessons will also be timetabled to give the students an insight into the skills needed for them.

At the beginning of February Mrs Stevens, our Deputy Headteacher, will also be delivering assemblies to remind students of the process in choosing their option subjects and tutors will be carrying out options focussed academic mentoring.

In terms of questions you may have about GCSEs, a Parent Exchange meeting will also be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 so that we can help you to help your son/daughter make well informed choices. Those speaking on the evening will include the Headteacher, Mr Rob Shadbolt and Mr David Bingham from Adviza, who will offer impartial careers advice.

All of this will be followed up by our Year 9 subjects evening on the 9<sup>th</sup> March where specific advice and information can be obtained from your son/daughter's teachers. To help you keep track of all of these events, please look at the calendar on the school website under Year 9 careers.

Yours sincerely



Mr M. Skinner  
Lead for CEIAG