

Monday 6th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 is an exciting year for our students in many ways, but perhaps none more so than the fact they get to choose their GCSE options. This is a big step for them to be thinking about, and so I wanted to contact you all to inform you of some key dates and information surrounding this important decision.

Firstly, the students have all had an assembly today (led by one of our Deputy Heads, Mr Askew) giving them an overview of the process – including a little flavour of what some of their option subjects might involve. They will have the opportunity to discuss and explore these in more depth with their tutors during tutor time for the remainder of this week.

Following this information being shared, we are asking students to complete a form that gives their initial thoughts on what GCSE options they would like to choose. It is important that this form is **completed by Monday 13th December**. The form can be accessed through this [link](#) (which has also been emailed directly to the students).

For some further details about the options available to your child, you can access our options [information booklet](#). Please note that this is last year's booklet. An updated booklet will be sent out soon, however the key information will remain the same.

When choosing options, it is vital that the students consider their likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, and also reflect on their studying practice. For example, some courses will have a much higher coursework element, which will require a greater degree of independent and focussed working outside of the classroom, whereas some subjects will rely far more heavily on exams.

After this initial survey has been completed, we will have a further GCSE options evening event at school (if the government rules allow) on **Wednesday 2nd February 2022**. This will help to give you some more in-depth information and also a clearer idea of when things need to be finalised, in preparation for the following year. We will also have our Year 9 parents evening on **Thursday 17th February 2022** in which you will have the opportunity to speak to specific subject teachers about your child's options as well.

If you have any questions or queries about this process, please contact Mr Askew on d.askew@wgsnitney.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your children's completed surveys, and to working with them on this exciting next step of their educational journey.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Atkins
Head of Year 9