

4 January 2024

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 **Wednesday 17 January** he will have an assembly to go over the Options evening and promote the booklet '**Middle School Years**' that he and you will be able to access online. This booklet 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 per student due to seating restrictions in the Queen's Hall) and your son (in school uniform) to attend a short meeting on **Tuesday 23 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 (Main Block, Geography, 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 Carr)
- 6.30pm Individual Q&A

Please reserve **a maximum of two tickets for this event via Little Box Office** (one adult, one student) 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 2026. 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

On **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January** 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 29 January 2024** 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