

12th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 9 GCSE Options

I hope you and your family are well. I am writing with more information about the options process that will begin this term to support your child with making their GCSE choices. This is an important time for Year 9 pupils and we are here to advise and support your child as they start to think about these decisions. I would like to share with you the planned timeline for this process as follows:

<p>Year 9 Parents' Evening Parents/Carers and students are invited to discuss progress made in Year 9 and to ask questions about GCSE courses in all of their subjects before they make their option choices.</p>	<p>27th January 2022</p>
<p>Options guidance in tutorial sessions Students will receive guidance through tutorial sessions on how to select option subjects and on general preparation for the start of Key Stage 4.</p>	<p>February – April 2022</p>
<p>Options Guidance Assemblies Key staff will provide guidance on the Options Process to students. An outline of the option subjects available will be given to students.</p>	<p>W/C 28th February 2022</p>
<p>Options Information Launch to Parents & Options form available for completion Parents/Carers and students are invited to access a range of videos explaining the options process as well as subject specific information for all subjects studied at GCSE.</p>	<p>28th February 2022</p>
<p>Initial Options Deadline All students will need to submit their initial choices in advance of the optional guidance interviews.</p>	<p>25th March 2022</p>
<p>Options Guidance Interviews You will be offered an interview with a trained member of staff to discuss your child's option choices and how these will help shape progression to Post 16, university and beyond.</p>	<p>7th April 2022</p>
<p>Options Final Decisions Students will have an opportunity to review their online Options Form after their Options Guidance meeting.</p>	<p>25th April 2022</p>
<p>Start of GCSE Courses Year 9 students will start their full Key Stage 4 timetable after the May half-term break.</p>	<p>6th June 2022</p>
<p>Completion of GCSE Courses Students will finish their Key Stage 4 courses and take their terminal GCSE examinations.</p>	<p>May/June 2024</p>

.../cont.

In order to support this process, you and your child may attend both the Year 9 Parents' Evening and an Options Guidance interview via *SchoolCloud* where you will be able to ask subject specific questions and speak to experienced staff about deciding GCSE choices.

In the meantime, for more information, you and your child may view the current GCSE Options Booklet which can be found at the following location:

<https://www.ashmoleacademy.org/page/?title=Year+9+Options+Booklet&pid=829>

In these constantly changing times, it may be necessary for us to review and adapt the options process and booklet outlined above. If you have any questions or queries in regards to this process, please do not hesitate to contact me by email.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Moon', written in a cursive style.

Ms C Moon
Senior Assistant Head Teacher