



December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Key Stage 4 Options Process

You will be aware that in Year 9 pupils will need to opt for certain subjects, which they will study in Years 10 and 11, in most cases to GCSE level. Although some of the usual mechanisms of communication and information-giving may be slightly different this year, I want to re-assure you that we will endeavor to make the process as rigorous as always, so that your child is in the best place to make the correct choices of subjects to pursue studying, in their next stage of learning.

This year, we are developing our 'Options' website, where you will be able to access all documentation and information regarding the Options Process; I will send a link to this website to you following the Christmas break. During the coming weeks students will receive an options booklet and further guidance relating to choices from subject teachers. Curriculum and Subject Leaders will supplement this information with details relating to the nature of GCSE courses in specific subject areas by providing pre-recorded presentations that will be uploaded to the website.

Pupils and their parents will be asked to access information utilising the Careers Wales website, <http://www.careerswales.com>. In due course, your son / daughter will be allocated a username and password and will access this resource during dedicated sessions in school. Using ICT facilities available, Careers staff will administer a session to guide pupils in relation to using the 'careerswales.com' website. This will provide informative advice to pupils with regards to career choices.

We shall continue to emphasise to the pupils that they should read the options booklet carefully, watch the subject presentations, reflect upon their choices and seek advice from parents, their subject teachers, their group tutor and Mrs Palmer from Careers Wales. Your son/daughter will make their choices using an online form; the link will be sent to your child's Microsoft email account.

The **Key Stage 4 Options Information Evening** will still be taking place on **Wednesday, 26 January, commencing at 6.00 p.m.** It will, however, be a 'Virtual Information Evening' hosted on the Microsoft Teams platform. You will be emailed a series of links that will allow access live Question & Answer sessions with the leaders of the subjects that your child is interested in finding out more about. I will communicate the full details regarding the evening in a future email, but the premise being that you will have had an opportunity to read the options booklet and watch the subject presentations on the dedicated website, in advance of the evening. In each of the 15-minute sessions on-line, the subject leaders will spend a few minutes explaining some of the 'Frequently Asked Questions' they normally receive from students. Following this, should you still have further general questions about the subject, you will have the opportunity to ask these directly. I would ask you to note that this is not a parents' evening and we shall not be in a position to enter into detailed discussions concerning pupils' progress in their Year 9 studies. Should you have any further questions following the Options Evening, subject leaders will be contactable via email/ telephone as normal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information at this stage.

I will be in touch again in the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. D. Gilsenan
Assistant Headteacher