

4th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: Options Evening (Video Presentation) w/c 8th March 2021 via your child's Google Classroom Y9 class

Historically, in Year 8, options to study in more depth have been chosen in Year 9. However, as a school, we are responding to government guidance that it is essential for schools to strive for high standards stating ***'it can be of more benefit for students to strive for good grades in fewer subjects with a strong emphasis on doing well in English and Mathematics, than to take more subjects but achieve lower grades overall'***.

In addition, Government guidance also states that students should have access to a ***'broad and balanced curriculum for as long as possible'***.

You may therefore remember that for Year 9 students one of the main changes for September 2020 was that the Key Stage 3 curriculum will now run over three years rather than two to ensure that students secure strong foundations in a broader range of subjects.

Our curriculum pathway ensures all students have the most valuable set of qualifications to access the highest level of post-16 education and training possible in a competitive future economy. All students who leave school are now judged on their success under the following GCSE measures as they progress on to Sixth Form education, college, apprenticeship or training:

- Progress 8 – progress in their best 8 GCSEs (must include 5 from English/Maths/Science/History or Geography/Modern Foreign Language)
- Attainment 8 – best 8 GCSE pass grades (as above)
- English and Maths GCSE pass grades
- The EBacc – 5 GCSE pass grades (English, Maths, Science, History or Geography and Modern Foreign Language)

As such, students will be asked to electronically submit their options before **Thursday 25th March** using a SmartSurvey (***link will be active on the Year 9 Google classroom from the 15th March***) to make choices from the following options: -

- 1) All students will be asked to choose from a humanities subject – either History or Geography. They will continue this choice through into Year 11 where it will be an accredited GCSE subject.
- 2) If a student is taking French (qualify for the Ebacc pathway) they will take one additional option from the list below.
- 3) If a student is not taking French, they will take 2 additional options from the list below.

YEAR 10
Ebacc Pathway

YEAR 10

Choose one option from below

| | |
|--|---|
| GCSE Art & Design | BTEC First Award in Creative Digital Media Production |
| GCSE Business Studies | BTEC Music |
| BTEC Business and Enterprise | BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) |
| OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge Nationals in Child Development | BTEC Performing Arts (Drama) |
| OCR Level 1/2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology | BTEC Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) |
| OCR Nationals Engineering Design | GCSE Physical Education |
| BTEC Level 1 & 2 First Award in Health and Social Care | BTEC First Award in Sport |
| Eduqas Level 1 & 2 Hospitality and Catering | |

Choose two options from below

| | |
|--|---|
| GCSE Art & Design | BTEC First Award in Creative Digital Media Production |
| GCSE Business Studies | BTEC Music |
| BTEC Business and Enterprise | BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) |
| OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge Nationals in Child Development | BTEC Performing Arts (Drama) |
| OCR Level 1/2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology | BTEC Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) |
| OCR Nationals Engineering Design | GCSE Physical Education |
| BTEC Level 1 & 2 First Award in Health and Social Care | BTEC First Award in Sport |
| Eduqas Level 1 & 2 Hospitality and Catering | |

In addition to the above choices, they will also study PE and well-being as part of the school curriculum.

It is important to assure you that your child has not lost out on any GCSE time due to the pandemic and will be starting their GCSE content in September. We would therefore like to invite you to watch a video presentation regarding your child's options as they move from Year 9 to Year 10. The video will provide information and guidance for you and your son / daughter prior to making choices for their Key Stage 4 courses of study. This video will go live w/c 8th March on the Year 9 Google Classroom class.

The purpose of the video is to ensure that we can give as much information to you and your child as possible regarding curriculum choices and the way ahead. Your child will also have presentations and videos in their lessons to help inform their decisions. We will then be holding a series of question and answer sessions on the following date and times: -

- **Monday 15th March (3.30pm – 4pm) and (4.30pm – 5pm)**

This will be your chance to ask any questions that may arise and we can discuss any issues or uncertainties that you may have regarding this process. It is imperative that you watch the video to ensure that you are able to help your son/daughter make informed choices regarding their future education.

If you have any queries prior to the video going live, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Robinson or Mrs Eastwood via telephone on 01977 664555 or via e-mail ceastwood@airedaleacademy.com.

Yours faithfully



L. Proctor
Principal

Ambition • Bravery • Respect