

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 9 Pathways

Year 9 students are about to enter an exciting phase of their educational career: **For the first time they will have the opportunity to select some of the subjects that they will study.**

Our Pathways process begins the week of **Monday 22nd January**. During this week, you will be sent information that will introduce you to the pathways process and we will share an overview of the subjects and courses that we offer from the beginning of Year 10.

On **Friday 26th January**, students will have an assembly where they will be introduced to the pathways and learn about what to expect from the process. Following this, students will be provided with their Pathways booklet which will guide them through the decisions they will need to be making. The booklet, which will also be emailed to parents, contains information about all of the subjects and courses on offer and serves as a source of reference. I would be grateful if you could take time to read it through at home, discussing its contents.

Following the publication of the Year 9 progress checks in February, you will be able to find out more information about your child's progress through the curriculum and this will also support their decision making.

During the week commencing **26th February**, each year 9 student along with their parents/carers will have a 10 minute guidance interview with a member of senior staff, during which their provisional pathway will be discussed and refined. Details of which – including appointment times - will be given nearer the date.

Thursday 7th March is the planned deadline for submitting pathways choices. All choices will be submitted electronically, and further guidance will be sent on how to do this. Please ensure that your child has accessed all sources of information before making their final choices.

Following this deadline, preferences are collated and we monitor progress in chosen subjects throughout the remainder of the year; We confirm courses once the timetable is finalised in the last half term (June-July), but if you don't hear from us then you can assume all is going to plan.

Year 9 continues to be a very important year and students will continue to study all subjects until the end of the academic year, and in so doing build a depth and breadth of knowledge and skills that will help in whichever courses are taken forward into Years 10 and 11 and beyond.

Can I thank you in anticipation of the support that you will give your child through this process. Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely

Clare Eastwood
Deputy Headteacher

