

1 March 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Key Stage 4 Option Choices

This week Year 9 students have received an assembly, led by Mr Atkins - Associate Assistant Principal, who spoke to them about their Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) option choices. Students were informed about their learning journey so far and how this is an exciting point in their academic career, where they can decide on some of the subjects that they wish to study from September 2024.

During the assembly, the option process was explained to students (a copy of the assembly can be found on the Year 9 Microsoft Teams Channel.) The students also listened to some of the current Year 10 students who told them all about the options that they had chosen, and why they had picked their subjects. Students were also told about the extensive support that we would give them throughout this process to ensure that they are on the courses that will be best for them.

The Pathways Options Guide

The academy has produced The Pathways Options Guide, that outlines the process and the courses available at Key Stage 4, starting in September 2024. The Pathways Options Guide can be found on the school website by following this link [The Pathways Options Guide](#), which has also been posted on the Year 9 Microsoft Team.

The process of choosing subjects is designed to be as simple as possible. The most important outcome at the end of the process is that students are following subjects they enjoy, giving them the best chance of being successful during Years 10 and 11. The Pathways Options Guide is designed to help make these choices as it contains details of all the courses we offer. We encourage you to read this with your child.

Planned events

To support the decision, we have a series of planned events. This includes taster sessions, parents' evening, options evening, and a series of assemblies where students currently in Years 10 and 11 will speak about their option choices.

- **Year 9 Option Taster Sessions (during the school day) Tuesday 5 March 2024**

Students have the opportunity to attend taster sessions for any courses that students have not already studied at the academy e.g. GCSE Business, Construction.

- **Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 7 March 2024, 4.30pm – 7.30pm**

Students should attend with their parents / carers, as this will give you an ideal opportunity to discuss your child's current progress and attitude to learning in their subjects. You will also have the opportunity to ask subject teachers about the course. (Students should attend this event in school uniform).

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- **Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 13 March 2024, 5.00pm – 6.30pm**

All option subjects will have a “stall” in our Options marketplace that will run between 5.00pm and 6.30pm. This is an exciting event that students and parents/carers should attend to be able to gain further information about each of the different options. You will have an opportunity to discuss any queries or concerns with subject teachers. (Students should attend this event in school uniform).

- **Friday 15 March 2024 Option Choices (and reserve choices) will be Selected Online**

You will receive further information providing you with details of how students select their options and their reserve choice.

- **Individual Support**

Students are able to access individual support throughout the process from their subject teachers, Form Teachers, Mrs McKay - Year 9 PAL (Progress and Achievement Leader) and the Senior Leadership Team. If any students / parents would like additional support from the SENDCo, please contact SEND@southaxholme-iet.co.uk

Option Choices

The structure of the Key Stage 4 pathway shows the ambition that we have for all of our students, as well as meeting their individual learning needs. We recognise that our students have different strengths; some students may excel on traditional academic courses whilst others will embrace the opportunity for a more applied or vocational approach to a subject.

All students will follow the core curriculum of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science, Physical Education and Religious Education. The remaining periods on the timetable will comprise of the option subjects.

Students must select one option from each of the option blocks shown below:

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Geography	Art	Art	GCSE Business
History	GCSE Business	GCSE Business	Child Development
Spanish	Construction	Computer Science	Construction
	Geography	Engineering	Photography
	History	Food and Nutrition	Performing Arts
	Hospitality & Catering	Health and Social Care	Triple Science
	Sports Science	I Media	
	Engineering	Music	
	Photography	GCSE PE	
	GCSE Drama	RE	
		Sports Science	

- *Forbidden Combination – you cannot select both Geography and History*
- *Spanish – If you select Spanish, you must select either Geography or History or Triple Science*
- *You must select a reserve for each block*
- *If a subject is oversubscribed the following criteria will be applied:*
 - *Disadvantaged students will be prioritised*
 - *Randomly allocated*

Some courses will be examined differently using different examination boards. The decision about which examination board and which type of course your child will study will be made by the Academy, once the makeup of each class and option group has been decided. Please note the Academy may decide to change examination boards, should this be of benefit to the student, or circumstances require a change of course. **Students will not be able to change subjects once they have started their studies in Year 10**, unless there are exceptional circumstances to support this change. This is why it is essential that they make the right decisions from the very beginning.

We aim to confirm your child's provisional Key Stage 4 study programme as soon as we have processed all the options forms, normally at the start of the summer term. Whilst we try to ensure that every student gets their first choice, this will always depend on levels of demand, and availability of staffing and facilities, and therefore, some students may have to study their reserve subject choices. For this reason, we ask you to make your reserve choices carefully.

Please note should a subject be undersubscribed this may mean this subject will not run.

Should you have any further questions after Parents' Evening and Options Evening please contact the academy.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Bullars
Vice Principal