

December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 9 GCSE Option Process

January sees the start of the GCSE choices process and I am writing to inform you of two key dates relating to this.

Wednesday 10th January: All Year 9 students have an Options Assembly

Monday 22nd January: Year 9 Parent/Carer Options Information Presentation, hosted on the school website.

During their Options Assembly, students will receive an Options Booklet that describes the different GCSE subjects available. This will be a useful guide in your discussions at home about which GCSE subjects your child should take. If students and parents/carers wish to look at this booklet before the assembly, it is also available on the school website: [Parent Letters and Key Publications](http://www.whitleybayhighschool.org) ([whitleybayhighschool.org](http://www.whitleybayhighschool.org))

In the recorded Parent/Carer Options Information Presentation, which will be available on the website from Monday 22nd January, we will go through the process and provide further information regarding the GCSE options and how to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum for your child. This is therefore a very important presentation and we have opted to host it online so that you can revisit the information as often as you need.

In the weeks following the Parent/Carer Option Information Presentation, each student will have an individual guidance meeting with a senior member of staff. In January, students will be completing a personal profile form during tutorial prior to the guidance meetings to help guide these discussions. At these meetings, which will take place until well into February, the student's personal profile will be discussed, along with the GCSE options they are considering. This discussion will result in initial option choices being chosen, which will be sent to parents/carers to confirm choices. This will offer parents/carers and students a chance to have a further discussion about the options before the choices are finalised.

The guiding principle of our process is finding the most appropriate route through Key Stage 4 for each child, to give them the best chance of success at 16. Our guidance meeting will focus on the students' interests, current level of achievement, long term ideas about careers and the way they like to learn.

We welcome conversations with parents/carers during the process and will do our best to answer queries quickly. However, with a large year group, we ask for your patience if some research is required before we can respond. At each stage in the process, you will be kept informed. Do not hesitate to contact Abi Welch, Head of Year, with any queries.

We look forward to helping you and your child through the GCSE Option Process.

Yours faithfully,



Steve Wilson
Headteacher