

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Year 9 Options 2022 – Introduction Letter

I write to you as we approach one of the most exciting and important milestones in your child's educational journey. In September, your child will be starting their GCSE courses and moving from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. All students at the Shirley High School are delivered a broad and ambitious curriculum, which is underpinned by the expectations of the National Curriculum and, as they move into Year 10, they have some choice in the subjects that they would like to explore further at Key Stage 4. Students will be able to express their preferences for the 4 option subjects (plus 2 reserves) they want to choose in addition to continuing to study all core subjects: English, Maths, Science, Core Physical Education and Personal Development.

The decisions that you and your child make regarding these options may affect their future career pathway, therefore an extensive programme has been put in place to ensure that both you and your child have as much information as possible to be able to make fully informed decisions regarding the options process.

Options Assemblies

This half term all Year 9 assemblies are focused on the options process. All Heads of Department from foundation subjects will be delivering presentations to the students about course specifications and expectations. These options assemblies will give students a better understanding of what this qualification entails.

Heads of Department online presentations

Presentations on every foundation subject will be uploaded to the options section of the school website. I would strongly advise all parents to watch the presentations with their child. This will allow parents and students to gain further information about the subjects offered at KS4 and have informed discussions about the choices the student wishes to make.

Information Options E- Booklet.

This extensive booklet will be uploaded to the Options sections of the school website. It will contain all the key information about the process, including;

- Key dates and deadlines;
- The EBacc route;
- Further subject specific content and information;
- How to submit you options choices;
- FAQs;

Parents/options evening.

We will be returning to our Pre-COVID face-to-face Year 9 Parents/Options evening this year. The format for the evening will be;

- All students and parents to make appointments with their subject teachers.
- Short Presentation from Mr Myton and Mr Powders – there will be two allocated times which will ensure all parents will be able to attend. Presentation times 5.00pm and 5.40pm.
- Market place for foundation subjects not taught at KS3 – parents and students will be able to meet specific teachers or ambassadors from these subjects to find out more information.

- Appointments can be made to meet our Careers advisory to discuss suitable options and career pathways.

We strongly recommend that you prioritise the appointments with key staff / subjects where you would like to discuss suitability for your child so you have the correct information to finalise your option choices.

Key Dates.

- Tuesday 29 March 2022 – Information options e-booklet uploaded to school website
- Tuesday 29 March 2022 – Options presentations with Heads of department uploaded to school website
- Tuesday 26 April 2022- Options/Parents Evening
- Tuesday 26 April 2022 – Monday 9 May 2022 – Application window
- July 2022 - Confirmation letter

I look forward to meeting you all on Tuesday 26 April 2022. Should you have any queries or questions please email me at: powders@shriley.croydon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr K Powders
Assistant Principal