

2nd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 Options 2021.

I am writing to you regarding the information and instructions for Year 9 Options 2021.

We have reached the point where your son/daughter will make important decisions about GCSE option choices. We firmly believe that giving students choice in deciding their options will prove motivating and will ultimately help them to be successful. Our option structure is broad and relevant, offering exciting routes to further study at post-16, higher education and into employment.

We aim to offer students the opportunity to take 9 subjects in Key Stage 4: 6 compulsory subjects and 3 options. Booklets containing full course details will be sent out to you just before half term, but the subjects on offer are:

Compulsory Subjects	English Language English Literature Mathematics Combined Science (2 GCSEs) Core PE (non-examined) Core RE (non-examined)
Compulsory Humanities	Geography or History
Option subjects – 3 choices	Art or Photography Business Studies GCSE or Business and Retail – Btec Computer Science RSL Dance OR Acting French Geography History Music – BTec Physical Education BTec Religious Education Separate Science Sociology or Citizenship Spanish

I am sure that you will give your son/daughter support, advice and guidance at this important stage in their education, and we will do all we can to support you as families in making the right decisions. The school reserves the right to exercise its professional

judgement when coming to a final decision as to which subjects are to be studied and at what level. As ever, courses will only run if demand is sufficient to justify their running.

Here is a timeline for the options process:

Thursday 4 th February 2021 5-6pm:	Crowdcast Meeting - Please use the link below to join the meeting: https://www.crowdcast.io/e/options-process-for-year Here initial information will be shared regarding the timeline of events relating to the options process.
Friday 12 th February 2021	The OPTIONS' BOOKLET, the OPTION FORM, VIDEOS from Heads of Departments and GUIDANCE documentation will be shared with you at this time. Over the half term break, please read this information carefully and discuss appropriate choices with your son/daughter.
Week beginning 22 nd February 2021	Special assemblies will take place this week where students can ask specific questions regarding their subjects.
Week beginning 1 st March 2021:	a. Parents to email the subject Help Desk for advice about subject specific matters EG HistoryHelpDesk@orchardparkhighschool.net b. Parents should email to request a 1:1 meeting with me to discuss any issues or concerns they may have regarding general option choices. gsmyrk@orchardparkhigh.net
Thursday 11 th March 2021	Parents Evening – more details to follow
Monday 15 th March 2021	Deadline for submission of the options form
Post Easter:	A letter will be sent home detailing each student's allocation to courses

I trust that this process will provide you and your son/daughter with all the necessary information and support. If you do have any questions now or during the process, please do contact me, Mr Clarke or Ms Ferigan – we are happy to help.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs G Smyrk
Associate Headteacher