

15 December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Virtual GCSE option subjects' presentation evening

Further to our letter dated 15 October 2021, we are writing to explain how you and your child will be able to attend our virtual GCSE Options presentation evening.

Option subject presentations, subject question and answer (Q&A) sessions, curriculum and pastoral presentations, as well as speeches by two Year 11 students reflecting on their experience, will be accessible on SharePoint via your child's school account by clicking on the following link:

<https://wokgs.sharepoint.com/sites/wgs-options>

Your child will also receive an email with this link via their school email account on 14 January 2022.

The presentations and speeches mentioned above will be recorded and available from Friday 14 January 2022 to allow you to get a flavour for the subjects in advance of the subjects' Q&A sessions (see schedule below).

	18 January	19 January	20 January
16.30	Art & Design	French	History
17.00	Drama	German	Geography
17.30	Design & Technology	Spanish	Business
18.00	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Computer Science	Religious Studies
18.30	Physical Education	Music	

Q&A sessions will last 20 minutes and will be staggered so you can attend as many as you wish. You will have the option to type your questions using the "Chat/Q&A" function and our colleagues will respond. We would like to remind you that the purpose of the sessions is to get a better understanding of the subjects at GCSE. Should you have specific questions about your child's progress and choice of GCSE Options after the publication of reports on 17 December 2021, you will have the opportunity to discuss the matter with the relevant teachers during parents and carers consultation evening scheduled for 11 January 2022.

For your information, all Q&A sessions will be recorded and made available on SharePoint from 21 January 2022.

Submission of GCSE Options

The process for Year 9 students to submit their GCSE options is online.

On Friday 21 January 2022 all students will receive an email to their school email account which will contain a link to a website where they must submit their options and a code in order to access it. The website link is the same for all students but students must use their individual code to access it. The website link is:

<https://my.edval.education/login>

Students must submit 4 GCSE options:

- One Humanities subject, either Geography or History
- Three option subjects: Art & Design, Business, Computer Science, Drama, Design & Technology, Food Preparation & Nutrition, French, German, Music, PE (GCSE), Religious Studies, Spanish, or another Humanities subject (Geography or History).

We plan our GCSE subject timetabling blocks and groups based on these choices. We always endeavour to allow students to take the subjects they have secured. However, should we be unable to do so for any reason, we will contact students and parents/carers to talk through alternative options. Therefore, should you not hear back from us you should assume that your child will study their chosen GCSE options.

The final deadline for submission of options using the online form is Monday 31 January 2022. Should students wish to change their options after this date, they must contact Mr Love directly by email on clove@wealdgs.org with the options they have submitted and their requested change/s. As timetable blocks and groups will be set at this point, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to satisfy any requested changes although we will try our best.

The full GCSE Option booklet detailing subject specification is available here:

<https://www.wealdofkent.kent.sch.uk/news-and-events/letters/general-information>

Finally, we are aware that this time of year can add stress to students as they make choices which impact their future. With this in mind, we would like to recommend the following useful links:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/subject-choices-year-10>

We would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs V Ricks
Deputy Headteacher



Mr C Love
Assistant Headteacher (Year 9)