

23 October 2020

Dear parents and carers,

GCSE Options

We hope that you and your family are well and look forward to a restful half term. As we are approaching the time of year when Year 9 students choose their GCSE Options, we are writing to explain how the process works.

In order to guide your child through the GCSE options process and given that making decisions can be challenging at times, we will deliver specifically-designed PSHCE sessions entitled 'Informed Choices' during Term 2. This will include guidance on choice making, careers and pathways research, input from Heads of Department for a range of Options subjects, study skills and reflective case studies from current Sixth Form students.

Please find listed below the key dates for this important period:

- **3 November 2020:** 'Informed Choices' launch to students during PSHCE sessions and GCSE options booklet released on website
- **20 November 2020:** Year 9 Reports issued
- **25, 26 and 27 January 2021:** Virtual GCSE Options Presentations (see details below)
- **5 February 2021:** Year 9 Reports issued to parents and carers
- **8 February 2021:** GCSE Options Online Form live
- **22 February 2021:** Deadline for submitting online GCSE Options Form

As part of their **GCSE Core Subjects**, all students must study English Language and Literature, Mathematics, 3 separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), a Humanities subject (either Geography or History), Core PE and PSHCE.

In addition, all students must choose **3 Option Subjects** out of the following choice: 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 will ask you to have in mind a reserve subject, although we will not request this on your option form. Very rarely we are unable to offer the 3 choices made by a student, on these occasions we make contact to discuss how to move forward, including consideration of a reserve subject.

Headteacher: Mrs E Bone BA (Hons), MA
Tudeley Lane, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JP
Tel: 01732 373 500
Email: school@wealdgs.org

Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust
Charity, incorporated in England and Wales
Registration Number 7451660, Limited by Guarantee

Due to the Covid restrictions and subsequent health & safety measures the school has had to put in place this academic year, we will not be able to host our traditional Options Evening in school. However, we would like to invite you and your child to attend virtual live events where the Heads of Department of GCSE Option subjects will present their respective subject and will take the opportunity to answer your questions. These events will take place between 16:30 and 19:00 as follows:

- **25 January 2021:** Art & Design / Drama / Design & Technology / Food Preparation & Nutrition / PE
- **26 January 2021:** French / German / Spanish / Computer Science / Music
- **27 January 2021:** History / Geography / Business / Religious Studies

All events will last 20 minutes and will be staggered in a way that you can attend as many as you wish, with none of them overlapping. For your information, all events will be recorded and made available on our website from 1 February 2021. You will receive a Teams invitation in January to all these events as well as a link to a pastoral and academic presentation.

We would also like to remind you that following the publication of your child's report on 5 February, you will have the opportunity to contact your child's teachers by email and arrange for a Teams meeting if you have any specific questions with regards to the progress of your child and choice of option subjects.

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>

Yours sincerely,



Mrs V Ricks
Deputy Headteacher



Mr C Love
Assistant Headteacher (Year 9)