

11 January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Virtual GCSE options presentation evening

We hope you had a lovely and restful Christmas holiday, and we would like to wish you all the best for the New Year.

Further to our letter dated 23 October 2020, we are writing to explain how you and your child will be able to attend our virtual GCSE Options presentation evening.

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

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

The presentations and speeches mentioned above will be recorded and available from Friday 22 January 2021, allowing you to get a flavour of the subjects in advance of the subject Q&A sessions (see schedule below).

	25 January	26 January	27 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 5 February 2021, you will have the opportunity to contact your child's teachers by email and arrange a Teams meeting.

For your information, all Q&A sessions will be recorded and made available on SharePoint from 1 February 2021.

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The process for Year 9 students to submit their GCSE options is online using a new system run by a company called 'Edval'.

On Monday 8 February 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 four 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.

The final deadline for submission of options using the online form is Monday 22 February 2021. Should students wish to change their options after this date, they must contact Mr Love directly by email with the options they have submitted and their requested change/s. As 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>

Yours sincerely,



Mrs V Ricks
Deputy Headteacher



Mr C Love
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