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4 February 2021

Year 9 into 10 GCSE Options Evening – Thursday 11 February

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to explain how our Year 9 into 10 KS4 Options process will be running this year. As you know, in September 2021 your son/daughter will begin two year courses in a number of subjects leading to GCSE, BTEC and other qualifications in the summer of 2023. Their curriculum will consist of a number of 'core' subjects – English, English Literature, Maths, Science, Religious Studies and core PE – that all students study, together with 4 options that they will need to choose as part of the Options process.

All students need to choose one of Geography or History. This should be the same subject that they opted for at the end of Year 8 – it is not possible to swap at this stage. If your son/daughter has chosen to study both Geography and History this year, they can choose to take one or both through to GCSE. There are no other restrictions on the preferences students make, although there is an expectation that many will choose to study either French or German. Although we try to ensure as many students as possible get their first choice, this is not always possible and therefore we will be asking for a "reserve choice" from each student.

Due to the current lockdown restrictions, it is not possible to organise a traditional Options Evening in College as we would have liked. Instead I am writing to invite you to attend our **Virtual Options Evening on Thursday 11 February** between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. You and your son/daughter will have the opportunity to attend a number of online meetings where myself and Mr Riley will explain the Options process to you and some of the things students may wish to consider when making their choices. You will also be able to join meetings organised by teachers in each of the optional subject areas, where they will explain the features of their courses in more detail. We will be using the Google Meet platform, access to which, for security reasons, can only be made through your son/daughter's College email account. Please access the link below to book the meetings you'd like to attend. Once you have booked, we will email you and your son/daughter before the event with the link to your chosen meetings.

<https://forms.gle/8RG919jp2G3B1yrN8>

I have enclosed a blank copy of the Year 9 Options. In a normal year, students would have a chance to practice filling this in with their form tutor. As this is not possible at the moment they will instead receive an emailed copy of the options form, together with a short instructional video. Year 9 tutors will also be spending some time supporting students during the daily online tutor periods each morning over the coming weeks. Having discussed choices with your son/daughter, we would be grateful if you could **either** post the completed and signed Options form into College or email us your options to

post@ccwhitby.org from your parental email address, entitling your email "Year 9 Options – Forename - Surname". Whichever method you choose the completed choice form needs **to be returned to College by Thursday 25 February**.

A copy of our Options booklet is available on our website here
<https://www.ccwhitby.org/parents/prospectus/>.

If you wish to receive a paper copy please request one by email repro@ccwhitby.org

We look forward to meeting you online on Thursday 11 February. If you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Boyd', followed by a period.

Susan Boyd
Assistant Principal
s.boyd@ccwhitby.org