

13th February 2019

Dear Parents

GCSE option choices and Yr 9 Parents' Consultation –Thursday 14th March 2019 (4.30pm – 7.30pm)

I am writing to highlight this forthcoming event for Year 9 students. As usual, you will have the opportunity to discuss your son's academic and all-round progress with each of his subject teachers. The procedure for the Parents' Evening is based upon an appointments system as usual. Your son will find his appointment sheet in his student planner and should take this to his teachers to agree a time for consultation.

The Parents' Evening is also an important opportunity to explore your son's GCSE option choices with the relevant members of staff. Our GCSE curriculum starts in the sixth term of Year 9, and therefore we are now asking students to make some decisions about their optional GCSE subjects. I have briefed students about the options process in their Assembly today, and they have each been issued with a GCSE Options booklet. Please study this carefully with your son and start discussing his options with him. A PDF version of the booklet is available for download from the school website.

Please note in particular that, since GCSE Business is an option subject that students have not encountered before, **any boy wishing to take Business as an option is required to complete a three-lesson introductory course and the resulting assignment.** The introductory course is intended to help boys make an informed decision about this subject and will run in the first three weeks after half-term, but boys wishing to participate in this course must sign up via their form tutor by the end of this week (Friday 15th February).

Also enclosed within the booklet is an Options Form on which the choice of non-compulsory subjects should be entered. This form must be **returned to your son's Form Tutor on or before Thursday 21st March.** We may not be able to meet all option choices and those who return forms after this date will be given a lower priority. However, your son should NOT return his option choices' form until after the Parents' Evening, enabling him to take into account his teachers' advice before making his final selections.

As part of the Parents' Evening, I will be delivering a briefing about the overall options process which you are all advised and invited to attend. This briefing will run three times in the evening, in the Old Gym, in order to enable everyone to attend around their subject teacher appointments.

Finally, a representative from PathMakers Careers will also be present at the Parents' Evening to provide careers advice where needed. An appointment will not be necessary.

I very much hope that the forthcoming evenings will prove helpful for you and provide a sound basis on which to make decisions for your son's future.

Yours sincerely

Mr. J. Eagle
Director of Studies