

January 2020

To Students in Year 9 (and their Parents)

GCSE Options

As you approach Key Stage 4 and GCSE courses we have planned a curriculum that meets the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum, but also gives you some choice of subjects to take at GCSE. The 'GCSE Information and Options Form', the 'GCSE Options Book', the Autumn Term Attainment Check and the forthcoming Year 9 Options Evening and Year 9 Parents' Evening have all been timed to help inform your decisions.

The 'GCSE Information and Options Form', the 'GCSE Options Book' and a copy of this letter will be available on the website from tonight. Please look at the Parents section and in the folder named 'GCSE Options'. All information will also be sent to students via FROG.

In line with changes that were introduced several years ago you will be given a free choice of options at GCSE. We will do our best to make this possible and will block options according to student choice instead of having rigid blocks. Where the numbers opting for a subject or choices of the majority make a particular combination impossible, we will make use of your reserve choices, taking into account how you have ranked your choices.

The core subjects at Rugby High School which must be studied by everyone; are English (and English Literature), Mathematics, Science, and a Language (either French, Spanish or Latin). You will also continue to have lessons in PRS and P.E. In addition, to cover the requirements of the PSHE curriculum you will be off timetable on days throughout the year. These days will include sessions on careers guidance, citizenship, economic well-being, financial capability and health education. This leaves room for opting for a further three subjects at GCSE or two if triple science is chosen.

The specific details for making choices are laid out at the front of the 'GCSE Information and Options Form' booklet. This includes the option of taking three sciences as separate GCSE subjects, which will mean choosing two further options. It is important that you consider your choices seriously, reading carefully the course outlines in the 'GCSE Options Book' and asking staff to clarify any uncertainties.

All choices are subject to staffing and timetable constraints, some subjects have a number restriction on the size of the group, e.g. Drama. Some optional subjects (including GCSE PE) may not run if insufficient numbers opt for them.

In order to help us with our planning you must hand in the Option Choices form to your Form Tutor by **FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY** at the very latest. Full information is in the 'Information and Options Form' booklet.

Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 30 January at 6.15pm – 8.00pm

By this stage you should have a good idea of which GCSE's you would like to take and this will be an opportunity to explore with members of staff the details of each subject and what it will entail for you in Years 10 and 11.

Year 9 Parents Evening: Monday 3 February and Tuesday 11 February

If you have any questions about the Options process or the information in the Progress Check, you can discuss these with subject teachers at the Parents' Evening. During the evening I will also be available to discuss the options process and progress checks.

If you require an appointment with Ms Deas (SEN) please ask your daughter to make that with her directly.

Further details about Year 9 Parents' Evening will be sent separately.

Mrs Y Grogan
Senior Assistant Headteacher