

11th February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

This year we will be forced to alter the way we usually organise the Yr 9 Options process. With the continued uncertainty about when and how pupils are likely to return to school we believe that we must now begin the process immediately after half term.

The timetable for key events will be:

- Thursday 11th Feb – Options booklet distributed on the school website.
- Tuesday 23rd – Feb – Pupil Options Assembly, 8.45am.
- Tuesday 23rd Feb – Virtual Parent and Pupil Options talk available to view online.
- Thursday 25th Feb – Year 9 Parents’ Consultation Day, appointments available throughout the day with class teachers to discuss options and progress.
An online options form will be distributed after the event for each family to complete.
- Friday 5th – Deadline for the completion of the online pupil option forms.
- Throughout the current cycle of timetabled lessons all pupils will be receiving additional information about the structure and content of each subject’s Key Stage 4 courses.

Parents can contact Mr Holden at holdenm@sarchs.com or Mr Simcoe at simcoec@sarchs.com for further information and guidance.

Online Options Evening

The online Options Presentation on February 23rd for parents, carers and pupils will be a chance for you to see the options process in detail and to consider some of important decisions that families face when making their final decisions. During the evening there will be an opportunity to reflect on the likely path of education, training or employment and the role these options will have in shaping these choices.

Making Selections

Most pupils will study for **nine** qualifications.

The six ‘Core’ subjects GCSE qualifications studied by all pupils include:

Maths	1 GCSE Qualification
English Language and Literature	2 GCSE Qualifications
RE	1 GCSE Qualification
Science Combined (Chemistry + Biology + Physics)	2 GCSE Qualifications

Pupils will also have three “Option” choices

One choice from subjects in Column A	1 GCSE / Level 2 Qualification
First choice from Column B	1 GCSE / level 2 Qualification
Second choice from Column B	1 GCSE / Level 2 Qualification

One Subject Enhancement

1hr per fortnight – No qualification

Pupils will also continue to receive 2hrs of Core PE per fortnight and PSHE through form, assembly and whole/part day activities.

This year an online Options Form will be distributed electronically after the Parents' Consultation Day on the 25th February. An example form can be found in the back of the Options Booklet 2021.

Using this form pupils will select:

- **One** choice from column A
- **Two** choices + one reserve choice from column B
- **One** enhancement choice (1 hour every 2 weeks)

Pupils selecting either of the two ASDAN courses should first discuss this choice with the relevant members of staff.

Thursday 25th February – Yr 9 Parents' Consultation Day

Appointments will be available for booking on Friday 12th February. Parents will receive a link to the SchoolCloud software where bookings can be made and edited. On the day the appointments will run for 4mins with an additional gap of 1 min between slots. Further information and 'how to' guides will be forwarded.

Initially parents will be permitted to select 10 appointment slots and should prioritise these with the staff with who you want to have an Options discussion. Parents may need to deselect a class teacher to free a slot with a specific options leader.

Class teachers in each subject will be able to discuss options information for courses linked to their areas.

Specific staff consultations can be added using the 'Add Teacher' menu (please refer to the 'How to guide – Step 4') to discuss the following option subjects:

Subject	Curriculum Leader
Business	Mr O'Ryan
Imedia	Mr Burton
Food and Nutrition	Mrs Robb
Design & Technology	Mr Fahey
Systems & Control	Mr Hodgson
BTEC Health & Social Care	Mrs Keigher
Drama	Mr Williams

Please note that due to the expected demand, the teachers in the above table should only be selected to discuss option choices as opposed to solely progress discussions.

Mr M Holden