

17 January 2022

Dear Parent

KS4 Options process

As we reach the mid-point of Y9, it is time for students to start considering which subjects they wish to opt for as they move into Key Stage 4. Our Y9 curriculum up to Easter is designed to help inform these choices. During this year your son has been studying:

- English, Maths, Science and Sport core subjects.
- his chosen Language pathway in either French or Spanish.
- a Humanities course that gives a taste of what Geography and History at KS4 will be like.
- a rotation of Arts subjects in Art, Drama, Media and Music to help inform his option choices.
- a rotation of Enterprise subjects in Engineering, ICT and Business, again to inform his option choices.
- His weekly Life lesson, where he has been exploring and building a career pathway that helps him in understanding the steps he needs to take over the next few years to reach his chosen career destinations.

All of this is to help inform the decisions he now makes as he moves into KS4 and starts to study his exam courses from after the Easter holidays.

Where can I find information about the process?

- Students will be guided through the process in their *Life* lessons over the coming weeks.
- Parents and students can view the video presentation from me on the front page of our *KS4 Options* website. This will take you through the process and can be accessed at options.ntc.kent.sch.uk or via the *KS4 Options* button on the top right of our school website.

How will I find out information about each of the subjects on offer?

- The *KS4 Options* site at options.ntc.kent.sch.uk also has video presentations from each subject teacher on what their subject involves.
- There is also a linked information sheet and email contact details for each subject lead if you have any further queries.
- There will also be an opportunity to speak to relevant teachers later this term in a Parents Evening.

What do I need to do next?

- As part of your sons *Life* lessons your son will be set a discussion task to complete at home with yourselves based on the decisions he needs me make. This will then feed back into his lessons and enable him to make decisions with support from both school and home.
- To let the *Life* team know how he will feedback these reflections, please go to the *KS4 Options* site at options.ntc.kent.sch.uk, click the button on the red banner at the top and complete the short form.
- Upto **Monday 7 February** these discussions are the most important thing. After this date the *SIMs Online* options portal will open and he will have until **Friday 25 February** to choose. This is to give plenty of time to reflect before making decisions. Choices are not 'first come first served' either, so there is no need to make decisions quickly.

Will I have a chance to talk with his subject teachers this year to inform decisions?

- You will already have been able to speak to his English, Maths, Science and Sports teachers before Christmas.
- We will be holding a second online Parents Evening for his remaining subjects on **Thursday 10 February**. Ms Kaur will be in touch shortly with further details.
- The focus of this evening is to talk with the teachers of subjects your son is thinking of choosing rather than to discuss his current progress in lessons.
- You can also email any of the subject leads on the *KS4 Options* site, or his class teachers if have specific questions.

The key to remember with this process is there is plenty of time to make these decisions. We often find those who make quick decisions tend to reflect later they made the wrong choices.

Should you have any queries about how this process works you are welcome to contact me either by email at morganj@ntc.kent.sch.uk or via main reception. You can also email careers@ntc.kent.sch.uk if your son would like a careers interview with our independent careers advisor (Mr Handley).

I look forward to seeing the choices your son makes in the coming weeks as he plans the next steps on his career journey.

Yours faithfully



Jon Morgan
Deputy Headteacher