



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT

Head of School: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT



INNOVATIVE



MINDFUL



EMPLOYABLE



17th November 2023

Key Stage 4 Options

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are at a crucial stage in your child's education; over the next two months you and your child will be making informed decisions about the subjects that they wish to study at Key Stage 4. Students will work towards achieving excellent outcomes on these courses in order to best prepare them for Sixth Form, university and the wider world.

We understand and care passionately about supporting all our Year 9 students in making the right decisions for them. We acknowledge that each child is unique and has their own interests, talents and aspirations. As such, we aim to provide a comprehensive options process that enables students to consider the subjects they enjoy, the subjects they are achieving well in and potential career pathways students may have, even at this stage of their education. Taking all of these factors into account will enable parents and students to make the best decisions on the courses they wish to study.

Below, you will find a summary of key events between now and March that will support the options process:

- Options launch assembly (Mid November)
- Taster Lessons in brand new curriculum subjects on offer at Key Stage 4 (week beginning 11/12/23)
- An assembly on 'how to make your options choices' online
- Launch of the Options Booklet for students and parents (December)
- Options Evening – talks and interactions with subject staff (Tuesday 23rd January)
- Reflection Logs – to be completed with parents and progress tutors (during tutor time in February)
- Options Interviews (between Monday, 29th January and Friday, 24th February),
- Deadline for Options choices – (Tuesday, February 6th)

Students will be making their choices for the taster lessons they would like to sample over the next week. It is important to note that these are for subjects not on offer in the KS3 curriculum, thus giving them an opportunity to experience what a typical lesson in these new subjects might be like.

The Options booklet will contain more specific information on compulsory subjects at Key Stage 4, all of the subject courses on offer to study and the number of choices available to students.

To aid families in making these difficult decisions, we have considered each child on an individual basis and recommended to them a pathway that guides their option choices. We have considered their prior academic attainment, their current progress grades and their likely aspirations for further study and careers. Using our experience and knowledge of how pupils perform and progress through education



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT

Head of School: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT



INNOVATIVE



MINDFUL



EMPLOYABLE



we are sure we have selected the most appropriate pathway for your child. You will find the recommended pathway for your child at the bottom of this letter. All students will need to consider the subjects they wish to study at Key Stage 4 carefully to ensure they are studying subjects that they excel at, that they enjoy and will enable them to fulfil their full potential.

Pathway 1

Compulsory	Choose one from	Choose one from	Choose 2 from		
English English Lit. Combined Sc Maths	French Spanish	Geography History	Triple science (invited) Geography History Computer Sci. Astronomy Religious St Business	PE Art Music Product Design Engineering Heath & Sc Early Years <u>Performing Arts</u> Dance	Sport ICT Hosp & Cat. Animal Man. Creative Media

In the meantime, I would highly recommend you start having discussions with your child on the subjects they enjoy and are achieving well in at home, as these are always a sound starting point when considering subjects to take at Key Stage 4. Your child should also be having conversations with subject teachers about their suitability for courses. Their teachers know them best in the classroom and will always offer fair and clear advice. Year 9 parents evening will be an ideal time to discuss options with your child's teachers.

Should you have any questions, please contact myself or your child's Progress Leader, Mr. Taylor on: t.truby@kingsmeadschool.net or j.taylor@kingsmeadschool.net

We look forward to working with you and your child and ensuring all our students make the right decisions for their future.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. T. Truby
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs. E. Bracebridge
Assistant Headteacher

Mr. J. Taylor
Year 9 Progress Leader