

11th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 9 Options for September 2024 and Parents/Carers progress evening
Thursday 25th January 2024 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm

There will be a progress consultation evening for Parents and Carers of year 9 on Thursday 25th January from 3:30pm to 6:30p.m. The evening will give you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers as well as an opportunity to discuss your child's options for KS4. We will be operating a no appointment system as this has proved successful in reducing queuing time previously. Please attend at a time convenient to you. When you arrive you will be given a map of the school indicating where all of the subjects are situated and a copy of your child's timetable.

We are approaching the time when our year 9 learners select their options for KS4 in an option column structure ready for studying in year 10 and 11. Your child has already started considering options and has made an initial selection from a 'free choice' list of subjects in November. We have now looked at the choices and populated the columns with a range of subjects across the areas of learning and with a mix of GCSE and BTEC's. In the free choice selection a small number of subjects had very little or no selection, however these are included in this first option column selection to give learners a choice if they have changed their minds. If there is a subject that does not have a viable uptake we would need to remove it from that column and learners would need to choose something else. I will update the learners once we have done this next option run with any changes.

In order for your child to make an informed decision on the options they want to take, we have a number of resources available to them. All of the resources are in your learners pastoral year group google classroom. There is a PDF with links to the subject information videos produced by the teachers, an options information booklet and links to Careers Wales. Your child will also be able to discuss options with their subject teachers over the next few weeks and they will be able to advise them on what the subject will involve. We will have a series of subject options talks during assemblies the week beginning 29th January.

Alongside the 3 option subjects, your child will also be studying compulsory subjects in English, Maths, Numeracy, Science, Welsh, Team-work and Personal Development/Health & Wellbeing, Work skills, PE and the Welsh Bacalaureate skills challenge.

My advice would be for your child to select their option subjects based on their enjoyment of the subject, and to consider the skills they have now and would like to develop. They can access the Careers Wales website to link subjects with possible careers. A combination of GCSE's and BTEC's is advised so they can keep their possibilities for the future open. I have produced a parents information

Please remind your child to take the time to consider the choices and to make sure they get as much information about the subject as they can before making a decision.

During the Year 9 Parents/Carers evening on Thursday 25th January I will be giving a short talk to parents/carers/learners in the main hall at 4:00p.m and then repeated at 5:30p.m to explain the process. SLT will be available during the evening for you to ask any questions and we will also have 6th Form Subject Ambassadors available based in each department who can also answer questions about the subjects from a learners perspective.

The deadline for learners to select their options using the online Google Form Survey is Friday 9th February. This gives them a fortnight to really consider their decision and to complete the survey. I would also like to reassure them that if they change their mind in the coming months they can pop to see myself or Mrs Edwards and we can sort that out with them and discuss a different subject they may feel is more suitable for them.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the 'giveusashout@ccyd.org.uk' email is available for support requests, such as uniform and equipment for your children. We also run the 'Believe In Me' club on a Monday in the library after school, where a hot meal/snack is available at the end of the session for learners. On parents evening we will be offering a pasta pot snack for parents/carers and learners between 4pm and 5pm. If you would like to take advantage of this please email "giveusashout@ccyd.org.uk" with the number required by Friday 19th January.

If you have any further queries please contact Miss Philpin (sarah.philpin@ccyd.org.uk) or myself.

Yours sincerely



Justine James

Assistant Headteacher

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Options form for September 2024 is shown below.

This will be completed via the google form survey digitally.

Option A	Option B	Option C
Art GCSE	Business Studies GCSE	Art GCSE
Drama GCSE	Electronics GCSE	Computer Science GCSE
Engineering BTEC	Food & Nutrition GCSE	Engineering BTEC
Health & Social Care GCSE	Hospitality & Catering BTEC	Geography GCSE
History GCSE	French GCSE	Health & Social Care GCSE
Product Design D&T GCSE	Media GCSE	History GCSE
Public Services BTEC	Music BTEC	PE GCSE
Triple Science GCSE	Music GCSE	Product Design D&T GCSE
	Photography GCSE	Sports BTEC
	Psychology GCSE	
	Religion Philosophy and Ethics GCSE	

*Learners will also study Core lessons in: English, Maths, Science, Health & Wellbeing, PE, Skills Challenge, Team Work & Personal Social Development, Welsh