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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

Thursday, 03 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

The Pathways process, sometimes known as options, is now underway. We wrote to you last month to give you advance warning of the first stage, a Pathways Evening, in school on March 10th 5-7pm. Below you will find some other key dates for your diary.

Key Dates 2022:

1. **Thursday 10th March**, Pathways Evening, 5-7pm
2. **Thursday 24th March**, Progress Evening, 3:30-6:30pm
3. **Friday 25th March**, pathways final choice form sent electronically to students
4. **Monday 28th March**, deadline for submission of options form, 9am.
5. **From 29th March onwards**, best-fit interviews and subject choices confirmed.

This week Mr Bird and Dr Wood have talked to Year 9 students about the Pathways process, and we asked them to fill in an initial survey to find out what subjects they would choose right now, given a free choice. They ranked 6 subjects, from a list of 14, in order of preference. They will eventually get 4 subjects as options, but more to follow on this next week. The survey information will allow us to do some advance planning and we may well put out more surveys over the coming week. This will help us to arrive at the best possible set of options for each student whilst still working within the constraints of the timetable, staffing, and resources available.

It is evident from discussions with students that they do not yet have a clear understanding of some subjects and what it involves, and some are thinking of opting for subjects without this key information in mind. This, of course, is entirely expected at this point but we would like to take this opportunity to sign-post the relevant sources of information available to help in arriving at a good balance of subjects. A pathways booklet will be available on the website soon and a hard copy will be available next week at the Pathways Evening. This details the process we follow and contains lots of useful information. The school website [here](#) has subject information about each option and the links to two websites that offer lots of useful careers advice and forward planning activities to help students decide. They should ask teachers questions too. This, together with the recent grade update, and the Progress Evening (24th March) should all help them to reach a well-considered set of options.

Please do not be daunted by this process, we will guide your son/daughter through each and every step offering advice, guidance and support as required. Do start conversations at home, talking about subjects and what they hope to gain by doing them, this is an important part of the process. Please bear in mind that curriculum reforms in recent years mean that previous experiences of some practical based courses may be out of date, the emphasis is now more on the theory and application of the knowledge and less so on the practical work itself.

Kind regards.

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