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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

Thursday, 29th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to invite you to the Year 9 Pathways Evening, in school on March 7th 5-7pm. Below you will find the other key dates for your diary.

Key Dates 2024:

1. **Thursday 7th March**, Pathways Evening, 5-7pm
2. **Thursday 21st March**, Progress Evening, 3:40-6:40pm
3. **Friday 22nd March**, pathways final choice form sent electronically to students.
4. **Monday 12th April**, deadline for submission of options form, 9am.
5. **From 15th April onwards**, best-fit interviews and subject choices confirmed.

The pathways booklet is available on the website [here](#) and a hard copy will be available at the Year 9 Pathways Evening. This details the process we follow and contains lots of useful information. The school website [here](#) has information about each subject and the links to two websites that offer lots of useful career's advice and forward planning activities to help students decide.

Andrew Austin, the school's careers guidance officer, will be attending both the Pathways and Progress Evenings to offer further help and advice as to which subjects will allow your child to progress on to the Post 16 courses and training, they wish to pursue. They should ask teachers questions too. This, together with the upcoming grade update, and the Progress Evening (Thursday 21st 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 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in mind that curriculum reforms in recent years mean that previous experiences of some practical based courses may be out of date, the emphasis is now more on the theory and application of the knowledge and less so on the practical work itself. The options we offer may be subject to change as a result of the number of students who opted for each subject, staffing changes or we may choose to offer an alternative level 2 course for a subject that matches the needs of the cohort. We will of course share any changes with you at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

Mr D Bird
Assistant Headteacher
Church Stretton School