

Year 9 Parent Notes

In assembly next week it will be highlighted that next half term the serious business of picking GCSEs starts. Miss Murphy will set out in assembly how the next half term will go; starting with another set of grades to be sent home highlighting student's Flight Path Grades and Approach to Learning. Students should reflect on these to help inform which subjects they might be best suited for.

There will also be a launch assembly where the Options process will be explained to every Year 9 student and some of those subjects not taught at Key Stage 3 (e.g. business studies and classics) will come in and speak a little bit about what the courses involve.

The main event will be the Options Evening in January where students will come in and take a look at all of the possible subjects they can pick. Miss Murphy will explain that the purpose of this evening is not to go into every room, but go into the subjects you are thinking of taking and asking them serious questions about the course, what skills they need etc.

Students will be studying the subjects they choose for the next two years, and it's no fun being stuck with one they don't really like. It is therefore worth looking ahead as decisions made now may narrow choices later on. Good questions to ask your son/daughter are: What do want to do after Year 11? Can this help you decide which subjects to choose?

Other points to consider when discussing GCSE Options are:

- Consider which subjects you are good at, are interested in or enjoy
- Look at the way courses are marked. If you don't like exams, you may prefer some subjects which include coursework, such as art or drama
- Choosing a balance of subjects may help to keep your future options open.
- If you're trying to choose between two subjects, think about how each option fits with your other GCSEs. Does a subject go well with your other choices? Or does a subject provide a welcome change? If you're taking lots of essay-based subjects, it can be nice to include one choice with a more practical focus

Spending some time now to look at websites such as those below can help students have more focus when it comes to making options choices and make them aware how the options they choose now can affect their future.

<https://www.careersadviceinsurrey.co.uk/>

<https://successatschool.org/>

<http://icould.com/>

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