

Year 9 Parent Notes

This has been a very busy half term for Year 9 and we would like to congratulate them on handling it in a very mature way. All students are to be commended for the way they approached their Next Steps Interviews last week. We have received lots of positive feedback from the members of staff who conducted these interviews about the positive way students entered the room and how many of them were fully prepared to have meaningful conversations about the options they were picking and the reasons behind this.

The deadline for the Year 9 GCSE options to be entered online has now passed, meaning all students should have input their choices via SIMS online, with any concerns or queries added to the 'student comments' section at the bottom of the page. These comments will be reviewed by senior staff and the various subject leads to try and make the fairest decision, in order to give all students the best possible chance at doing well for their GCSEs.

After half term students will be allocated to courses and we will check that the combinations of subjects chosen are correct. If we notice any mistakes or students on incorrect Curriculum routes then we will discuss this with your son/daughter and contact home as well so that you are kept fully informed of what is taking place. If your son/daughter does not hear from us then they can assume that their options have been completed perfectly and everything is fine.

The focus now shifts to getting the students prepared to study the GCSEs they have chosen. Over the next term and a half a key priority for Miss Murphy is to ensure that every student in Year 9 is ready to study their GCSEs. This means that that a focus will be on the Powerful Learning Characteristics and how students can develop these in their approach to lessons and learning outside of the classroom. It will also mean a continued focus on students coming to school properly equipped to learn as well as completing and meeting deadlines on homework which will become a vital part of their education as they move into Key Stage 4. We will also focus on how students can organise and manage their time effectively to ensure that homework is being completed to the best of their ability by the deadline.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during this half term in helping all Year 9 students make the first major decisions about their future, and we hope you have a restful half term.

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