

## Year 9 Parent Notes

This year the option choices will take place online. At the beginning of next week students will be sent a registration email to their school email account and instructions on how to enter their option choices. We suggest that when they choose their options you sit with them. Should you or your child have difficulty with doing this online, help will be on hand during options evening in the Library. If your child wishes to comment on their choices, there is a box available on the online form. Once the process is complete we will send the options chosen to you via the students to confirm you are satisfied with them. **The deadline for options to be entered online is Friday 9 February.**

Year 9 reports have been loaded on to Frog this week reflecting how students are currently performing in class. The ATL (Approach to Learning) grades have new descriptors, which all teachers have been asked to use. Therefore please do not be alarmed if your child's ATLs have changed significantly since last term. A document outlining the grade descriptors is linked under the Year 9 section of the school bulletin. It would be hugely beneficial if you have meaningful conversations with your son/daughter about their report, with a view to what this potentially means about the GCSE options they are thinking of taking.

This week students have also completed a transitions and decision making task in tutor time. After having to come to a decision about who to save in a 'shipwreck scenario', students were asked to reflect on how they make decisions and were given advice about how to put this into context regarding their year 9 options. Some great guidance that came from this activity included:

- Do your research – consider where your options will take you
- Draw up a list of pros and cons if you are stuck between choices
- Your friends may choose subjects they are good at and enjoy, but these may not be the same for you – make decisions for yourself
- Don't pick a subject based on a teacher – this may change

As the above advice suggests for students to consider where their option choices can lead to in terms of A-Levels, college, internships and careers. This website has lots of useful information regarding all Post-16 options which would be worth exploring:

[www.careersadviceinsurrey.co.uk/options/](http://www.careersadviceinsurrey.co.uk/options/)

The GCSE Curriculum Guide is now available on the school website and copies have been printed and put in tutor rooms for students to borrow. Please use this with your son/daughter to look at the different option choices available and what each course entails. Please follow the link under the Year 9 section of the school bulletin.

Our dedicated email address [Y9options@oxtedschool.co.uk](mailto:Y9options@oxtedschool.co.uk) is now up and running for students and parents to email with any questions or queries about the options process. Please contact us no matter how insignificant the question might seem, we want you and the students to feel that you have access to support throughout the whole options process.

Thank you for your continued support.

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