

Ref: CH/JMP/YR9Curriculum

22nd January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 9 Curriculum Consultation

Soon it will be time for our Year 9 students, and their parents/carers, to consider choices of courses for their GCSE qualifications. This is obviously a very important process as it decides the programme of study for the final two years of your child's secondary education and culminates in their qualifications and grades that they will carry with them into further study and/or employment. During Key Stage 3, there has been little choice regarding subjects studied as these have been determined by the National Curriculum. As we now prepare for Key Stage 4, whilst there are some aspects of the curriculum which are pre-determined, there are still some genuine choices to be made.

I am, therefore, writing to outline the options choice process and to let you know the key dates and guidance that is available during this important stage of your child's schooling.

At Aylestone we aim to provide an options structure which meets the needs of the students. To this end, we consult with students to allow them to have a significant input into the curriculum on offer, tailoring it as best we can around what it is the students wish to study. This process starts with a pre-options conference where we outline the potential courses that the students could choose, giving them key information about each of the subjects on offer. We then ask the students which courses they would be interested in following at Key Stage 4, within a given set of guidelines. These choices are by no means binding but are used to shape our final options offer. This conference for students will be on **Tuesday 12th February**. A form will be brought home to discuss with parents or carers. Each student will then have a meeting with either the Achievement Coordinator or a Senior Leader where they will discuss possible outcomes and the provisional choices made.

Your child's full report is then issued on **Friday 1st March**, giving you a clear indication of how well they are doing in the KS3 curriculum. This will help in getting the right balance in decision making between choosing subjects they like, they are doing well in and will prove valuable in further study or employment.

On **Tuesday 12th March 6.00pm - 7.00pm in the dining hall** we will be holding our annual Curriculum Consultation Evening for Year 9 students and parents/carers. All Year 9 parents/carers are strongly encouraged to attend with their child as this will be a further chance to consider the choices available for GCSE study. Subject specialists, school SENCO and the Careers Team will be on hand to answer any specific questions you may have.

A downloadable options booklet will be made available on our website prior to the event, outlining in detail the courses available. We will send a text message to parents informing them when it is online. Students will have access to computers over a number of tutor periods to read through the booklet before they complete their final options choices, the deadline of which is **Thursday 28th March**. We anticipate using an online system to complete final options choices this year. In order for you to use this, we will need one valid parent e-mail address. Please contact school if you think we might not have your most up to date details.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Mrs C Hendry
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