

January 7, 2022

Dear Parents,

Re: Year 9 GCSE Options Evening

We would like to invite you to attend our Year 9 GCSE Options Evening on Wednesday 12th January at 7pm. Due to the current situation with Covid-19 and the Omicron variant, this will be held virtually via a Zoom Webinar. The event will contain a mixture of live presentations by Mrs Rogers, Dr Smith and Mr Mercer-Kelly as well as an opportunity to view pre-recorded presentations from option subject teachers about their GCSE subjects. Please find an Options Booklet attached which gives more details about the options process and subjects. There will be a live Q&A session so that any questions that arise can be addressed, though if you are able to send any questions in advance to r.rogers@kingsleyschool.co.uk we would be grateful. The link to access the webinar is below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85070620411>

After the evening has taken place please discuss your daughter's options with her. You will be sent a link to a Google Form for you to complete with your daughter. You will be asked to identify the choices for non-core GCSE subjects plus two reserve subjects as well as confirming her modern foreign language which she has already started. The deadline for this is Friday January 21st at 4pm. There are some FAQs on the following pages which will give you some more information.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Rogers

Assistant Headteacher (Academic)

Options process for GCSE 2022-24 – FAQs

Will I definitely be allocated my subject choices?

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that you will be allocated your top three subject choices. This is why we ask you to nominate two reserve subjects. We work very hard to ensure that the majority of students are able to study their top three subjects and in reality, few students are allocated a reserve subject.

Do I have to put my favourite subject first?

It is really important to put subjects down in preference order rather than being 'tactical'. As long as the subject is running, all students will be allocated their first choice.

Will all the option subjects be running next year?

As long as there is sufficient demand, a subject will run. Sometimes, where a subject has not been chosen by enough students, we may decide that we are unable to run a subject at GCSE for that cohort.

Do I have to study a subject at GCSE in order to take it at A-level?

This is not always necessary – look in the Options Booklet to see if you need to have studied the subject at GCSE in order to study it at A-level.

Do I have to study certain subjects if I have a particular career in mind?

This is unlikely. GCSEs are very broad and give you a fantastic foundation for more in depth study at A-level in Sixth Form or even degree level at university. At this stage it is always most advisable to study what you enjoy. If in doubt please ask your teachers.

Can I choose Latin instead of French or Spanish?

No. French and Spanish make up part of the core compulsory GCSE curriculum and are timetabled together. Latin is part of the non-core curriculum and will be placed in one of the option blocks.

Can I study both French and Spanish?

Yes. If you wish to study both languages, please choose French as your core GCSE language and then Spanish as one of your options.

What do I do if I have a subject scholarship?

If you are in receipt of a scholarship such as music, drama, sport or art we would expect you to choose the corresponding subject at GCSE.

What happens if I change my mind?

Please do not worry if you change your mind. It happens! If you change your mind BEFORE the option blocks have been published, please let us know as soon as possible as it may affect how we structure the blocks. Once we have finalised the option blocks, you can change your mind but you will have to choose the subjects as they are listed in the blocks. ALL changes to options MUST be emailed to Mrs Rogers by parents.

Should I choose a subject because my friends are taking it?

No. It is very important that you choose a subject because YOU like it. GCSEs are hard work and you will be studying these subjects for two years. It is vital therefore, that you think carefully and choose subjects that you like and enjoy studying.

Should I choose a subject because I like the teacher?

We hope that you like all of your teachers but this is not a reason to choose a subject to study at GCSE. We cannot tell you which teacher will be taking each subject at GCSE so it is really important that you think about the subject itself rather than who is teaching it.

If you have any further questions please do ask.