



November 2025

Dear Parent/carer

Year 9 Options Process

As you know, this is the year in which students select their GCSE options to study in Years 10 and 11. To guide students and parents/carers through this process we have a number of activities planned. The first of these is the **Year 9 Taster Day** which will take place on **Thursday 13th November**. Students will take part in taster lessons in 4 different GCSE subjects to find out what these subjects are like at GCSE level.

To support students in choosing which tasters to attend, the options booklet and videos about each subject are available on the school website under the learning options tab. Students will select 6 taster lessons they would be interested in after their assembly this week and will be allocated to 4 out of their 6 choices. The aim of the tasters is to help students to start thinking about the options they might like to take next year.

Following on from this event, the next stage in the options process is the **Year 9 Parents' Evening** on **15th January** followed by the **Year 9 Options Evening** on **21st January** (please note the change from the original calendar date for this event.) The Parents' Evening will allow you to have detailed conversations with class teachers about progress in current subjects and then the Options Evening gives a chance to speak to all subject areas about the GCSE and Level 2 courses available and to find out more about the options process as a whole. Further information about these events will be sent out closer to the time.

The final stage in the process is completing the Options Form and this will happen after the Options Evening, with final choices being confirmed later on in the term. We hope that by having several points of information, pupils will be supported to make really positive and well-informed choices ready for Year 10. If you have any further questions about the process, please contact either Mrs Oates, Progress Manager, Mrs O'Hara, Year Leader (Year 9), Miss Bottomley, Assistant Year Leader (Year 9) or Mrs Willis, Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Willis
Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum