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# Year 9 Curriculum Information Evening January 2021

Mr P. Walklate  
(Head of School)

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# Purpose of the Evening

- To explain and contextualise some of the recent changes in education.
- To outline the curriculum information evening and options process.
- To outline where you can locate the subject information for the options process.
- To answer any questions that you may have regarding the options process.

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## Reformed GCSEs – how they have changed...

- GCSEs were reformed over a 3 year period where all GCSE and BTEC subjects were reviewed.
- The assessment of these subjects changed significantly. Coursework was removed and replaced with Non Examination Assessment (NEA). This is where a subject has multiple elements and the NEA must be completed under controlled elements e.g., specific amount of time.
- All BTEC subjects now contain an element of external assessment.
- The vast majority of assessment is now 100% examination which is taken at the end of the two year course.
- The vast majority of subjects have also seen an increase in the number examinations that are required to be taken.

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# The new grading system

A*	9
	8
A	7
	6
B	5
	4
C	3
	2
D	1
E	
F	
G	

Grade 9 will be the top 20% of those currently getting grade 7 or higher.

Grade 7 will be the same as currently achieving a grade A.

Grade 5 positioned in the top third of current grade C and bottom third of current grade B. **THIS IS A NEW STRONG PASS**

Grade 4 will be same as currently achieving a grade C. **THIS IS A NEW STANDARD PASS**

Bottom of a grade 1 aligned with bottom of grade G.

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# What is the Options Process?

- An evening where our core curriculum offer is outlined to students and families
- An evening where our option subject offer is outlined to students and families
- An opportunity for you to select your preferred subjects to study in Years 10 and 11
- You will be examined in these subjects at the end of Year 11
- When you enter Year 10 you will begin your GCSEs

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# Assessment in Years 10 and 11

- Throughout the GCSE journey in Years 10 and 11 your child's performance will be captured 5 times.
- During Year 10 your child will sit 2 in class assessments. The final assessments in Year 10 will be completed in examination conditions.
- During Year 11 you child will sit two full sets of PPEs in full examination conditions.
- The final examinations will take place in May 2023 (6 week examination window)

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# Our Core Curriculum Offer

EDA Core Curriculum Offer		
Subject	Will students take an examination in this subject?	How many GCSEs will students gain from this subject?
English Language	YES	1
English Literature	YES	1
Mathematics	YES	1
Science	YES	2
RE	YES	1
Core Physical Education	NO	0
Personal Development	NO	0
Total number of GCSEs achieved through our core curriculum offer		6

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# Our Options Choices

EDA Option Subject Offer		
Triple Science	Geography	History
French	German	Computer Science
Art	Business Studies	BTEC Performing Arts
Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE PE	Music
BTEC Sport	Photography	Design and Technology
IT Option	Sociology	



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# Subject Parameters

- There are some subjects where we set entry parameters
- Our justification for this – ‘we don’t believe in setting students up for failure’
- Some students need to be guided in their choice of options. Especially under the reformed GCSE qualifications.
- Applicable subjects; Photography, Computer Science and Triple Science
- All of our subjects enable access to Post 16 education

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# Supporting Information

- We have created a microsite which contains the following information to support in the options process:
- An E-Book which outlines the key information for each subject
- A set of PowerPoint slides containing key information about each subject
- A video clip from each Subject Leader explaining the GCSE in detail
- All of this information has been sent via the MyEd app

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# Common Mistakes

- Selecting the same options as your friends
- Not reading the information which means you have no idea what the subject is about or what you will be learning
- Not reading the assessment information e.g., how the course is assessed
- Not selecting what you are good at and what you enjoy

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## Sometimes...

- Sometimes... we will need to select your reserved choice. Please make sure you think about these carefully when you pick them.
- Sometimes... we may guide to you to a better choice
- Sometimes... the course you have selected will not run because of low numbers
- Sometimes... there may be parameters around certain subjects

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## Next Steps

- We will send out electronic options forms via the MyEd app for you to complete
- We will confirm the deadline for options forms shortly (we are waiting on guidance for the wider reopening of schools)