

9th February 2021

### Year 9 Options Process

Dear Year 9 Parent/Carer,

Plans are well advanced with regards to the process by which students decide which subjects they will be continuing to study when they move into Year 10 in September 2021.

I have already shared with you some key dates for events that make up the options process. What follows will give you further information about the curriculum that students will have access to in September and also the activities that will give students and parents' information to make the right curriculum choices for them.

### Year 10 Curriculum for September 2021

- All students will study the compulsory core curriculum of Maths, English and Science.
- Students will all complete programmes of study in the compulsory subjects of RE, PE and PDC (including Citizenship).
- For the compulsory science part of the curriculum students will be guided to study either Combined or Separate Science GCSEs.
- Students then have a range of options to choose to fill **three** time slots on their timetable.
- To ensure that students are not being disadvantaged by not opting for a broad range of subjects including a facilitating subject. **At least one** of these three choices must be one of: **Ancient History, Computing, French, Geography, German, History or Spanish.**
- The remaining two options can be selected from a wide range of subjects and types of qualification, including both GCSE, BTEC and Technical Award qualifications.

Oriel strongly believes that education is not a 'one size fits all' system. We believe that all students need a broad and balanced curriculum to give them a mix of academic, creative, practical and social skills to fit them for life in the fast-moving world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our aim is such that each student will be able to follow a timetable which is both broad and balanced both in terms of the range of subjects they study but also with regard to the learning style involved.

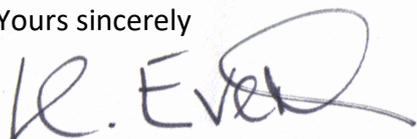
During the process of allocation of options choices please understand that while we will do our utmost to enable your son/daughter to follow their preferred personalised learning plan it may not, in a small number of cases, be possible e.g. if a course is vastly oversubscribed or only a very small number of students choose a course.

Between now and the 1st April 2021 there will be a programme of support and guidance for Year 9 to help them make their options choices.

- Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> March, an Oriel Y10 Curriculum Guide will be posted home to all Year 9 students. Included with this will be a copy of the Options Form which will need to be completed and returned to school by 1<sup>st</sup> April – this can either be returned as a hard copy or emailed to [options@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:options@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk)
- In the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March a document containing links to videos and presentations giving information about all of our Year 10 subjects will be made available for students and their families to watch. There will also be links to each subject's course specification and examples of resources to give you a flavour of what studying each subject might be like.
- A video presentation explaining how the options process works, the difference between GCSE and vocational qualifications and advice on how to make good choices will also be made available at this time.
- Throughout March, if students and parents/carers have any questions about options subjects these can be emailed to individual subject teachers or to the email address [options@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:options@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk) – we will aim to answer any queries you might have that will help you to make the best subject choices for our students.
- During lessons Year 9 teachers will also explain how the subjects they are currently studying form the foundation of courses in Year 10 and will give time for students to ask questions and see examples of students work.
- On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March we will then have our Year 9 parents evening. Parents will be able to book online appointments with subject teachers to find out how students are progressing in their Year 9 subjects but will also be able to ask questions about the Year 10 subjects on offer. Subject Leaders for subjects not currently studied in Year 9 (e.g. Business, Film Studies, Health and Social Care and Sociology) will also be available for appointments should parents/carers have any queries not yet answered
- Following all of these activities, students will then be asked to complete their options choice form. All options forms will need to be completed and either handed in to their mentor or emailed to [options@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:options@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk) by the **Options Deadline on Thursday 1st April 2021**

I would like to thank you in advance for your support in ensuring our Year 9 students make informed curriculum choices

Yours sincerely



**Helen Everitt**

**Deputy Headteacher**