

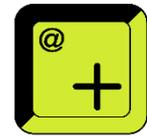


THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

CAD/dah

16th October 2020

HOLDERS ROAD
AMESBURY
SALISBURY
WILTSHIRE SP4 7PW



Maths &
Computing

Tel: 01980 623407

E-mail: admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk

www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher

Mr. N. D. Roper B.Sc., NPQH

School Business Manager

Mrs. J. Wakeham

Dear parents of Year 9,

I am writing to you to explain where we are with the current Options process for the Year 9s following the disruption that was caused to the process whilst your son/daughter was in Year 8, in March of last academic year.

At that point I had very much hoped that we would be in a situation where we would have been able to invite you all in for our usual Looking Forward Evening. However, with restrictions still in place, and to fit with the Risk Assessment that we have for the school, this is not going to be possible this year.

During lockdown I made the decision that the best thing for year 9 students would be to complete Key Stage 3 properly to minimise the impact of the disruption caused to their education, and I believe that to still be the best decision. We also decided that students would complete their options process before Christmas in order to start Key Stage 4 studies in January. That is still the plan as we believe that starting the courses in Year 9 means that students gain the most from GCSE preparations, and are able to find more engagement and enjoyment in their subjects as they are starting the pathway that they want to follow.

So in light of the fact that we cannot invite you in, the following has been put into place to support you and your child in the decision:

- All students had **talks from each of the subjects in March** during the special week of Options assemblies.
- Subjects have been **repeating this information** in lessons within the last week.
- **The Options booklet** will be uploaded to Show My Homework for them to read through (and is also included for yourselves to read through with this email).
- **An assembly** will have been delivered on Friday 16th October explaining the process to your son/daughter by myself via Teams so they can all hear my explanation of the process.
- My usual **Looking Forward evening presentation** that normally starts the evening has been reworked so that you can gain tips from me to inform the process.
- In order to ensure that you have up-to-date information from each of their subject teachers to inform the process we have changed the assessment pattern of the year, and you will receive a **Commitment to Learning grade on Insight for each subject this week**, together with an indication of how they are **currently performing in that subject**.



- **An electronic form** (via survey monkey) will be used to enter option requests so you can complete this at home together by the deadline of **4th November**.
- The link to the Options Choice form is here:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TqJfewJ_I0qWrapZAWWf30hFgyeHkFZGg6zv4-chUUNUOU0yNURFWkdWSTIWTE05UkhDOUNKTkRVVS4u

Students will still be allowed to change subjects in the future, although consideration must be given that some courses may, by then be full, so it is vital that students give careful consideration and make the correct choices now. They should tell us the 4 top choices, and then two reserves with the awareness that on occasion we do use reserve choices to maximise the number of students who get the choices that they want the first time.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact me or Mr McCarthy, Progress Leader Year 9 at mccarthyn@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Carole Dean

Deputy Headteacher

