

April 2021

Dear families

This cycle, your child will be selecting their optional subjects for GCSE. This is an exciting time for students as they make important decisions about their studies. The academy puts a range of measures in place to support students, including dedicated sessions during PDS and individual meetings with senior staff.

As the health and safety of our families is paramount, we will be unable to hold an Options Evening as we usually would have this year. We have, however, implemented some additional layers of support for students and parents to ensure you feel confident to support your child with making their options decisions.

The following measures will be in place for this academic year:

- The options process has been presented to students during their whole year group PDS session this week. This presentation included information on subject choices, permissible combinations, how to complete the options form correctly, and information about support available. They have also had a follow-up PDS seminar with their advisor where they have continued to go through any additional information or questions they may have had.
- Each department has put together a short video presentation for their subject that will be available on the school website. This will also be accompanied by a video presentation including how to complete the options form correctly, how grades are awarded at GCSE and information about support available to your child. You will receive a link for this via text message or can find the webpage here: <https://www.dixonsta.com/why/year-8-options>
- One of the most important forms of support is the advice of family members. An options information booklet has been sent home with this letter to support you in helping your child with making their decisions in consultation with family members.

The deadline for options forms to be returned this year is **Monday 10 May**. Students will need to hand their form into their advisor during morning meetings.

Please don't hesitate to contact Miss Blythe or Mrs Vessey with any questions that you might have.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte Blythe
Teaching and Learning Lead

Rosie Vessey
Assistant Vice Principal

