

February 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Re: Key Stage 4 Options Process 2022-23

In the Spring term of year 9, your child will begin their options process. This is an exciting time for your child, as they select the subjects they will study and gain qualifications for in years 10 and 11.

These are important decisions and we recommend that they take time to think carefully about their choices and that you have regular discussions at home, engaging in all of the advice and support sessions that we provide.

You will already be aware that there are two pathways that our students may follow. You will have received prior notification if your child is on the EBACC (E) pathway via previous letters home. Children placed on the E pathway will be required to take the current language they are studying (French or German) **and** at least one humanities subject (history or geography) as part of their options. Students on the T Pathway will be required to take at least **one** of the EBACC subjects (triple science, geography, history, French/German or computer science).

Chase Terrace Academy believes that taking a language and a humanity subject provides a balanced and academically challenging curriculum. All students that are placed on this pathway are high attainers in history or geography and the language they currently study. Simply put, there are no down sides to getting good grades in these subjects; the advantage of achieving a GCSE in a language can't be overstated.

For those who are placed on the E Pathway, this is mandated unless there is a compelling reason for them not to follow this route. A compelling reason may be related to a future career or educational pathway. There will be opportunity to outline your compelling reason as part of the options process through the interview with senior staff and on the options form students complete. Parents can of course support their child in completing this.

The first stage in the process will be an information evening for you and your child where key staff will go through what the options process entails. This will take place online via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday 16th February 2022 at 6pm** and a recording of the session will be made available afterwards for anyone that cannot attend.

Following this evening, you will be able to access the Options brochure and short subject specific videos from staff through our website to help your child to make their choices.

Your child will also receive an options form in registration on Friday 17th Feb to complete, which must be submitted with their proposed choices by **Friday 3rd March**.

Once all option choices are received, students will have a short interview, which you are free to attend with them, with a senior member of staff to go through their choices and ensure that they are clear about them before confirming. Interviews are likely to take place between **13th March and 21st March**.

Once all of the interviews have taken place, the timetable is constructed and your child will then be notified of their final options in the summer term. It is important to note that whilst every effort is made to accommodate all students' first choices, there are limited numbers on some courses and some students may receive their reserve. This will be explained during the information evening.

Should you have any questions prior to the information evening, please send these via e-mail to the year team and we will endeavour to answer these or include them in the information evening.

Kind regards

Mrs Thombs
Assistant Headteacher