



Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child has now started the process to consider which subjects they would like to study at GCSE level and possibly beyond. Form tutors will guide their students through the process and should be your first point of contact if you have any questions. Students will be given a booklet explaining which subjects are on offer. They will also be shown a short video clip from each Head of Department at Springwood explaining more about the subject before being asked to make their final choices after Easter. Here, you will find some useful links that may help you when discussing these important decisions with your child.

Career Planning

Some of the most useful web tools which may help students explore their ideas include:

- <https://www.startprofile.com/>
- <https://icould.com/>
- <https://www.careersbox.co.uk/>

Many industries also have career quizzes and guides which can help students develop their ideas, including MI5 – do you have what it takes to work in intelligence? – and the CITB with their construction quiz.

Here are a few of our favourites:

- <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/ssq>
- <https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/careers/take-the-test>
- <https://www.goconstruct.org/learn-about-construction/find-the-role-for-you/ultimate-quiz/>
- <https://careers.bps.org.uk/>

Decision Making

There are many different ways to make decisions but we will be here to guide all of our students onto one of two pathways and, from there, encourage them to choose subjects they are good at and enjoy.

Subject Choices: CAUTION!

When choosing subjects, it is worth remembering that many option subjects if dropped at the end of Key Stage Three will be very difficult to pick up again at A-level so try to ensure your child maintains a broad curriculum.



EBacc

"The EBacc is made up of the subjects which the Russell Group says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees ... A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education."

Many of our students in Year 9 will be encouraged to choose a Humanities subject, either Geography and/or History along with a Modern Foreign Language. Please be assured that our priority is that every one of our students chooses the right combination of subjects for them.

And finally,

Some words of advice from some of our older students;

- Choose based on your interests and values, not those of your friends.
- Don't choose a subject based on your like or dislike of a teacher (they may not be your teacher next year).
- Give yourself time to stop, think and reflect before making your final decisions.

All of this may feel a little overwhelming, but there are independent careers advisers at the National Careers Service helpline for teenagers: <https://www.gov.uk/careers-helpline-for-teenagers> that are there to support you and your child if you have any questions or queries.

For our children, these years are a series of transitions and transformations, as they begin to fulfil their destinies. For parents, this can be a somewhat daunting experience. If you find you or your child need support, please contact us and we will do everything we can to help.

Kind regards,

Mr Scoles

Head Of Year.