

22nd February 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 9 GCSE Guided Choices



I am writing to inform you of the Year 9 GCSE Guided Choices process for this academic year; specifically, the arrangements and support that will be available to guide students as they complete their options process.

All students will follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, RE and PSHE, which includes British Values and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development). In addition to this, students will be offered one of two pathways; a Purple pathway and a Green pathway.

Students on the Purple pathway will choose a humanities subject (History or Geography) and a foreign language in order to meet the requirements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) certificate plus a choice of two further subjects.

Students on the Green pathway will study a humanities subject or a language and may choose both if they wish, plus a choice of three further subjects (making a total of four choices). Students opting for our vocational courses on the Green pathway will be given further guidance on the most appropriate humanities subject for them.

We anticipate that the vast majority of Springwood High School students will follow the Purple Pathway. The structure of the Key Stage 4 curriculum has been designed to ensure that every student will follow an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum suited to his or her individual needs. We all have different strengths and weaknesses, and for some students a vocational course will allow a greater chance of success in Level 2 courses than a GCSE course.

Next Steps: -

- A Tutor Time programme on the Guided Choices process, which will include short videos by Heads of Subjects talking about studying their subject at GCSE.
- A Super Learning Day on the 1st April dedicated to the Guided Choices process including:-
 - Time to study the Guided Choices booklet, which provides an overview of all the subjects available along with guidance on how to choose them.
 - A trial run using the Guided Choices software to pick subject choices.
 - Presentations by external speakers, focusing on future aspirations which will include talks on apprenticeships, sixth form, college and university.
 - The opportunity to become familiar with Unifrog, an excellent online platform dedicated to supporting students through this process and beyond, including post 16 opportunities and information on apprenticeships, sixth form, college and university.

The deadline for confirmation of subject choices will be the 28th April 2022.

If you have any questions at any point throughout this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Year 9 Office on 01553 778092.

Kind regards
Miss R Davies
Assistant Head - Head of Year 9

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