



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a very important time of the year for you, your child and all pupils in Year 9 as we are concentrating on subject options. The outcome of this will be that our Year 9 pupils will choose which option subjects they will study over the next two years in Years 10 and 11.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of our pupils in Year 9. The vast majority of them are showing real determination during this challenging time. Our school offers a broad and balanced curriculum and subjects complement each other well. Skills acquired in the subjects studied so far will support the learning of the ones they will choose for their GCSEs. Therefore, regardless of which subjects your child chooses, I cannot stress enough how important it is to continue to attend all lessons for all subjects for the remainder of the year.

Clearly, it is essential that each pupil makes the best possible choice for them, and to help with this the school has set up a programme to ensure that choices are based upon the best possible information. A tutorial programme in Life Skills lessons is already underway which is aimed at helping each pupil with general advice on how to make independent choices.

In the **week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> February**, subject teachers will inform pupils about the option subjects. This will happen in lesson time. The presentations will emphasise not only the positive aspects of the subjects but the responsibilities and expectations of the pupils. Every pupil will also fill in a form called 'My Options Thinking Sheet' to show that they have received and thought about all the information provided before they make their final decisions.

On **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February**, there will be a Curriculum Information Evening which has been organised for parents/carers of Year 9 pupils (the pupils' attendance at this is optional). There will be information stalls between **5.30pm and 7.00pm** where Heads of Faculty will be available to answer any general questions about curriculum matters. We recommend to bring along a pen to take notes. A form, showing all option subjects available, will be provided.

A representative from Youth Connexions will attend this evening and will be available for any queries.

There will also be a short presentation in the hall about the options available and the process for choosing subjects. Mr Wood will deliver this presentation at **5:45pm** and at **6:15pm**. We will hand out tickets on your arrival for these in order that we can avoid overcrowding.

On the same day (**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February**), information about the Option subjects will be available on our website, including the Options booklet.

*"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016*



On **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**, we will hold a virtual Consultation Evening at which parents/carers will be able to discuss their child's progress with subject teachers. We recommend that you prioritize appointments with those teachers, whose subject your child would like to study in Years 10 & 11, as well as in the core subjects English, mathematics and science. This meeting will run between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. You will receive further details on this virtual evening in due course.

Following the Consultation Evening, between **7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March**, all Year 9 pupils will have an individual interview with a member of staff to help them make their final choices.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr S Venz  
**Assistant Headteacher**