



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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7th February 2023

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.

We will be holding an information session for our Year 9 pupils on the options available on **Thursday 2nd March** in the afternoon. This will provide all Year 9 pupils with the opportunity to speak to staff teaching the range of options available. There will be information about all courses on offer and they will emphasise not only the positive aspects of the subjects but the responsibilities and expectations of the pupils.

Every pupil will be asked to 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. This form will be handed out in an assembly on the day and we recommend that pupils take the form home and discuss it with parents/carers.

There will also be an opportunity to talk to current Year 10 pupils.

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

Pupils will be allowed to leave from 2.45pm onwards.

From **Thursday 2nd March**, presentations on the option subjects and the Options booklet will be available on our website, as well as a virtual presentation from Mr Wood about the options available and the process for choosing subjects.

"Pupils flourish, and support each other to succeed" - Ofsted



Regarding options, pupils will be able to take up to 4 subjects, either GCSE or BTEC and this will vary slightly depending on which of two routes, X or Y, we advise your child to follow. More information on this will be given by Mr Wood in his introduction on the website (available from 2nd March). A letter stating which route we advise your child to follow will be sent out on 1st March.

On **Thursday 9th March**, we will hold a Consultation Evening at which parents/carers will be able to discuss their child's progress with subject teachers. We recommend that you prioritise 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. There will also be subject stalls for any 'new' subjects that are available at Key Stage 4 that pupils have not been studying at Key Stage 3. These include BTEC Health and Social Care, BTEC Child Development, Citizenship and Arts Award (Drama).

This meeting will run between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. You will receive further details about this evening closer to the date.

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

Following the Consultation Evening, between **10th and 24th 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