

February 2021

Ref: JSM/HWh

Dear Parents / Carers

Year 9 Options 2021

We will shortly be formally commencing our activities to support your child in choosing their KS4 options subjects. A copy of the handbook for options that will support you and your child through this process is attached alongside this letter. Normally, we would be planning to invite you into school to hear from subject leads about options subjects and to enable you to ask questions. As things stand, with the school being subject to national COVID restrictions, we are not able to offer this at the present time. We are therefore planning alternative arrangements to make sure you are able to access clear information, ask any questions and support your child effectively.

On Monday February 1st 2021, a dedicated area will launch on our school website. You will receive a direct link to this area via School Comms on Tuesday February 2nd. The area will contain access to:

- A digital copy of our options handbook.
- Subject specific presentations, that explain the content of the KS4 option subjects and hopefully offer answers to common questions.
- A presentation from me, as Headteacher, to explain the Options process itself and to assist you in filling in the Options form.
- Links to our Post 16 provider websites to assist with decision-making.

In addition, there will be a dedicated email address that will be available between February 1st 2021 and May 31st 2021. This email will enable you to submit specific questions about Options which will support quick responses to any queries. The email for all options enquiries is: options@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

- **You will receive your child's Options form via email on Friday 26th February 2021. The deadline for return, is Tuesday 2nd March 2021.**
- **Your child will also receive a non-binding practice form to complete on Friday 5th February 2021.** This supports our own wider planning to try and ensure we can put sufficient staff and groups on the timetable to maximise the matching of student choices. I would ask you to ensure your child returns this via the options@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk email address by Friday 12th February 2021.

The options process can be a confusing time for families, particularly if you are supporting your eldest child through the process for the first time. However, rest assured, we are here to support you at each step of the way, albeit virtually. If your child receives additional support through Learning Support via an Education, Health and Care Plan, please note that members of the Learning Support team will be in touch to offer additional guidance for your child.

I look forward to working with you and your child during our 2021 options process to provide the personalised curriculum offer that we are so proud of at Thomas Keble School.

Yours sincerely



Julia Maunder: Headteacher: Thomas Keble School