

Dear Parents and Carers,

23 March 2021

Virtual Options Evening Tuesday 30 March 6-7pm

Firstly, thank you for the excellent response to our options survey—we had close to 100% completion from year 9 families and were thrilled with this level of parental support and engagement.

As part of the next stage in our options process, we would like to invite you and your child to our Virtual Options Evening on Tuesday the 30 March from 6-7pm. [Click here](#) to confirm your attendance and to ask any questions.

On the night, you can join the meeting by clicking on [this link](#). (Meeting ID: 876 0413 9939)

Further information about the options process

At St Mark's we recognise the importance of the decisions that your child needs to make in their transition from Year 9 into Year 10 and Year 11. These options will also open doors to their chosen A Level subjects when they join us in Sixth Form. In this important and challenging phase of students' education, it is crucial that we give your child and you as parent(s)/carer(s) clear and informed guidance as to the choices available and how these are matched to their individual needs, interests and abilities.

This will be the first time they have been given the chance to select the GCSE and BTEC subjects they wish to study from Year 10 onwards, so it is important that they consider the following things:

- What is available?
- What do they enjoy?
- What are they good at?
- What might you need for future study and careers?

We are passionate about making sure our curriculum is broad in that it allows us to realise the God given potential in every child, but also offer a strong academic core through our EBacc offer. This means that students can continue to extend their knowledge and skills in a central core of subjects while beginning to make choices in other areas, based on their own abilities, talents and preferences. This curriculum will ensure as many opportunities as possible remain open to your child for further study at St Mark's Sixth Form, in higher education and their future career. We are extremely proud of the offer we are providing students with which is supported by high quality teaching delivered by staff with exceptional subject knowledge.

The Year 10 and Year 11 curriculum combines a core of compulsory subjects (English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, RE and Core PE) with choices taken from a variety of other subjects e.g. Modern Foreign Languages, Humanities, Drama, Art, Music, PE, Psychology, Technology, Business and ICT. It is important that your child maintains a broad and balanced curriculum so they do not limit their choices in Year 12 and 13 when they apply for A Levels and BTECs at St mark's Sixth Form.

What do parents and Year 9 students need to do now?

Continue to discuss the Options Booklet which has been shared with you virtually with your child. **Please ask your child to read through this with you** so you can start to gain a sense of what each option subject may involve or feel like.

Attend our Virtual Options Evening on Tuesday the 30 March from 6-7pm. [Click here](#) to confirm your attendance and to ask any questions.

The Academy will run taster sessions in early April to give students a flavour of GCSE life in different subjects

We will end by sending you a guided pathway form to be completed by the end of April and communicate final options choices for your child by 1st May.

Please can I thank you as parents for your engagement and support as we work together to plan an incredible Options Process. We know this will allow your child to achieve their hopes and dreams beyond this academic year. I am already excited to see their dreams come to life through an enriching, broad and balanced GCSE curriculum.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Fahey
(Acting Principal)