



30 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are very close to the time where we will be asking you to submit your child's subject preferences for their GCSE's in Y10. You get a real sense from the students in Year 9 that they understand the importance of these decisions and they are keen to consider all their options and make the choice that is right for them.

I want to outline the crucial next steps with the Year 9 choices process this year, because we will need to do things differently due to current restrictions.

Unfortunately, we cannot invite parents in to school so instead we have recorded a presentation for you which goes through the full process and talks you through the important aspects you must consider when making these choices with your child. Please [click this link or visit our website](#) to watch this. If, after watching the presentation you have any specific questions then we are available next week to answer any questions. Please click [here](#) and complete the short form. We will then be in contact with you next week.

Each subject has made a short video going through the common questions they are asked alongside important details about their subject because you are not able to ask them directly. These videos are invaluable, and I cannot recommend them enough. If you click the following link it will take you to them: [Subject videos](#) or if you visit the school website you can access it via www.smhs.staffs.sch.uk – Parents – Year 9 Choices.

On Tuesday 4th May, Year 9 students will receive a booklet that has the details of each subject they can study alongside a reminder of the key considerations when making their choices. It is important that you take the time to sit down and go through this booklet with your child. At the back of the booklet is their subject preference form. This form will need completing and handing in.

This must be handed in to Mr Delaney by Tuesday 11th May.

It is important that you meet this deadline so that you will be considered for your top choices straight away. There is no advantage in handing in the form early as we recommend that you take the time to consider your choices carefully.

Providing the top preferences for every student can be extremely difficult for the school. We shall try hard to give you what you ask for, but please understand that some classes will be limited in size. We cannot have more than a certain number in some groups due to the availability of equipment. We can only put on a certain number of classes in some subjects due to the availability of teachers and/or rooms. This is why we ask students to let us know their choices and order of preference.

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

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Please also be aware that if a subject is chosen by a small number of students, we may not be able to run the course. Occasionally, we hit unexpected problems with staffing which means that we have to ask students to revisit their selections as a particular course cannot run. We hope to avoid this, but it does happen from time to time.

It is not possible to change your choices if you change your mind half way through Year 10. You will be studying these subjects for the next two years and the grades you achieve will stay with you for life – so it is important to get as much information as possible and make the right choices now.

To summarise, please watch my presentation and visit our website to look through the subject videos you are interested in. If you have any questions then please book an appointment [here](#). On Tuesday, your child will bring home their booklet with a summary of the process and information on each of the subjects and at the back of the booklet you will find the form that needs completing and handing in by the **11th May**.

Your child is still able to speak to their class teachers to ask any last minute questions and I am around each break and lunch for them to ask me any questions all next week.

Yours faithfully

Mr K. Delaney

Mr Delaney
Deputy Headteacher

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