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23rd February 2021

YEAR 9 VIRTUAL GCSE OPTIONS - 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a relaxing half term with your families and are looking forward to your children returning to the Academy in the near future. I speak for all teachers at Tile Cross when I say we cannot wait to get back in the classroom and see all of our students in a safe environment.

I want to take this opportunity to launch a very important part in the lives of students in Year 9. This week we are officially launching the final stage of the GCSE Options process. If you recall, your child successfully chose one option in Year 8 from subjects on offer at the time. This year we will allow our students to choose two further options from Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages, Creative Technologies and Physical Education. It is essential that our students choose a broad and balanced curriculum to enhance their life chances.

Due to the current situation we cannot hold an Options Evening event in school and therefore we have decided to go virtual. Our teachers have worked together to produce our very first 'Virtual Options Open Evening' with all the information you will need to make the right decisions for your children. You will receive a hyperlink to our GCSE options section on our school website and from there you can watch the video at your leisure whilst making your decisions. Please watch this video carefully before you attend our live **Options Open Evening**.

In the video you and your child will be advised on how to make your final decisions and will be guided on how to use **Microsoft Forms**. It is a simple system which asks you to rank order the 8 subjects we have on offer, in order of preference. The first subject you choose will be your most desirable, your first choice, and the subject ranked 8th will be your least desirable. As always, we will endeavour to match subjects and students but this is not always possible.

The deadline for returning your subject choices is:

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Important – please do not miss this deadline as it could hinder your chances of receiving the subjects you selected on your Microsoft Form. If you have any questions or queries, then please feel free to join us on a **GCSE Virtual Options Open Evening Meeting** on Teams on **Wednesday 3rd March 2021** either at **4pm** or **5pm**. The Microsoft Form will go live after this options evening at 6.00 pm. Invites will be sent in due course to all Year 9 students.

To summarise, we recognise that this is an important decision and want to assure all parents and guardians that we are here to support you. Our online video is packed with vital information and our Microsoft Forms should make the process a lot easier. Good luck with the decision making process and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Regards,

Mr H. Sami
Assistant Head of Academy