



4th January 2024

Year 9 Options Evening

Dear Parents and Carers,

The new year has the added excitement for Year 9 students as they prepare to select their options. The trial options process, completed in school using SIMs in December, was a huge success and enabled students to express their interests and to go through the process of selecting options online.

The options process will be launched on Thursday 18th January. Students will attend an assembly that will outline the timescale and the approaches to take when selecting options. On the same day, between 18:00 and 19:00, parents and carers are invited to attend an options presentation in the school hall and also to collect the 'KS4 Pathways 2024-2026' printed booklet detailing the core curriculum subjects and the optional curriculum subjects. We will also distribute the same SIMs options user guide booklet that students used to complete their trial options as students will make their choices with you at home on their own devices.

Students will then have until Thursday 8th February (3 weeks) to make their choices with you. On Thursday 25th January we have our Year 9 parents and carers evening where you will be able to speak directly to subject teachers who will give advice and guidance on each subject. Mrs Ruby, our Careers Manager, will also be available throughout the options process and can be contacted on nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk. Further questions can be answered by email using the enquiries mailbox provided at the foot of this letter.

As the Year 9 options evening is usually very busy we ask that only parents and carers attend the evening, the students will receive their input during the morning assembly and also the following morning tutor time and should not attend the options evening. Please indicate your intention to attend the options evening using the Microsoft form link. If you are unable to attend students will be given copies of the two booklets on Friday 19th January.

Microsoft form link: <https://forms.office.com/e/yQ9trr35Py>

We know that many students have ideas about the option choices they will be making, this is often based upon enjoyment, interest, further education and potential careers. We continue to encourage a broad and balanced approach for the majority of students which includes: languages, humanities and creative subjects. The trial options process highlighted that many students have already made choices that reflect a good breadth of study across a wide range of subjects.

I look forward to sharing more information with you on Thursday 18th January.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Keene
Assistant Headteacher