

27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Year 9 Options

We must start by recognising the excellent start that Year 9 students have made to the school year. They have returned to school in an excellent frame of mind, showing determination and resilience as we would expect! Year 9 are now in their third, and final year of Key Stage 3 study, and I write with details about Options processes that are upcoming this year.

Options are an exciting stage for our students. They will move from studying a wide variety of subjects in KS3, to a bespoke, personalised curriculum at KS4. In turn, this will lead to qualifications that will enhance their life chances and opportunities.

Students will study the following curriculum in KS4:

English Literature and English Language GCSE

Mathematics GCSE

Combined Science GCSE (*some students may choose Triple Science as an option which would replace this*)

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

Core PE (not examined)

We will give students the chance to pick from a range of subjects, although parents and students should be aware that there will be some limitations on the combinations of subjects that students can select given our own curriculum and timetable restrictions. We will publish the Option Blocks (which students choose from) before Options Evening in February 2024.

We will ask students to select one of **History or Geography** within their subjects.

The majority of qualifications that students study will be GCSE, but a small number follow a more vocational route (BTEC, Cambridge Nationals). Further details regarding this, will be published to you nearer the time of subject selection.

Our Options processes will take place in the Spring Term, which gives students as much time as possible to make informed choices. With this in mind, students should already be considering what subjects might

represent sensible choices for them. **Students are reminded not to make choices based on friendship groups!**

**Key dates for your diary:**

<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>	<b>Year 9 Options Evening</b>  This is an opportunity for you to speak with subject teachers and listen to what different subjects have to offer, as well as the qualification routes for KS4.
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024</b>	<b>Year 9 Parents Evening</b>  This will be an opportunity for speaking with your child's teachers about subject choices, and whether subject selection is an appropriate choice given the progress that they are making over the academic year.
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024</b>	Students will be able to select their subject choices from this point onwards. This will be an online process, through Microsoft Teams. Further details will be sent to you in due course.
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>	Student deadline for subject choice submission.

**We would hope to be able to confirm your child's subject choices before the end of the academic year, although please note that with all curriculum decisions, subject choices could be subject to change give our own curriculum and timetable restrictions.**

We have a dedicated section on our website for Options 23-24, where all information regarding our Options processes will be published. This page is accessed through the *Curriculum* menu, on the homepage. If you have questions about our Options processes, please do not hesitate to email me using;  
[jcannon@ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:jcannon@ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,



**James Cannon**  
Deputy Headteacher  
Ridgewood High School

