



Dear Parents/Carers,

In Year 9, students select the subjects they are taking for their options and continue to study into Year 10 and 11 for GCSE / Level 2 qualifications.

The options process is a very important stage in your child's school life, so we want to make sure that all students make the decisions right for them.

I thought it would be useful for you to know the timeline of the options process and when important dates and deadlines are, even if all the details are not available yet.

November onwards

Subjects will be sharing information with students on the courses that they offer in Year 10 and 11. Different departments will do this through a variety of different methods that will include:

- Explaining it in lesson time
- Running sessions at lunch or after school
- Presentations in form time or assembly
- Providing written information in the options booklet or a leaflet

Wednesday 10th January 2024: Y9 Options assembly

Students will have an assembly that outlines the options process to them, in preparation for the options marketplace event the following week.

Wednesday 17th January 2024: Options Marketplace evening, 5pm – 7pm

Students and parents can gather information about all the different subjects that are available and have conversations with subject teachers. Students and parents will also receive clear information on how the options process works, alongside the options booklet. I will provide further information nearer to the event.

Wednesday 31st January 2024: Year 9 Parents evening (virtual), 4pm – 7pm

This is a chance to talk to your child's teachers and find out how well they are progressing in their subjects. For subjects that are options, it will be useful to think about the teacher's comments in relation to studying that subject in Year 10 and 11.

1st February to 16th February 2024: Students picking their options.

Deadline for submitting options: **Friday 16th February**

More information about how to submit options will follow.

17th February to 30th April 2024: Options for next year being finalised.

The school data team will collate all the student option choices, working out the classes for the following year. During this stage students/parents may be contacted if courses are oversubscribed or do not have enough students selecting them to be able to run. Reserve subjects will be discussed at this stage, please prepare your child for this eventuality.

May 2024: Option confirmation

Parents will receive a letter confirming their child's option subjects.

Information about the options process is on the John Ferneley College website:

<https://www.johnferneley.org/optionsprocess>

It will continue to be updated and you will be alerted to the updates as they happen.

Many thanks for your support with this, I will be in touch with further information on the next stages when required.

Yours sincerely,

Matt King
Assistant Headteacher

