

# Year 9 Options Process

The Year 9 options process is your first major opportunity to shape your learning to meet your preferred way of working, interests, ability and future aspirations. It is an important decision which will have consequences for the rest of your school life and later career.

There is clear evidence to show that a student's life chances will be dramatically improved by having excellent GCSE grades and this is our aspiration for all our students. At Tudor Grange Academy Redditch we are pleased to be able to offer a wide range of Key Stage 4 courses and are confident that students can choose combinations of these courses to optimize their chances of success. We believe that students should follow a curriculum which suits their preferred way of working, interests, ability and future aspirations.

Students and their parents/carers often ask for clear information, advice and guidance when choosing Key Stage 4 courses. We have simplified the process into three pathways to help give more clarity. The pathways will be recommended to students based on their individual strengths, interests and ambitions. We will consult with you before we present the pathways to ensure that we have included a range of subjects that reflect the interests of our students.

We will support our students with a "Future Choices" event where specific information regarding the subjects they have expressed an interest in will be available together with information about apprenticeships, college and university. They will then be asked to express a preference about which specific subjects within their bespoke pathway they would like to select. As far as possible, we hope to allow students to follow their preferred pathway. However, we are keen that all our students succeed, so your son/daughter's teacher(s) will be consulted as their professional judgment and experience will help us make sure that the most suitable pathway has been selected. We want to ensure that all our students are properly equipped to make these decisions and are positive about their choices. Therefore all students will have an individual information, advice and guidance interview to support them in determining their ambitions and future aspirations.

## The Options Process Timeline Year 9

Key Date	Document/s	What it's for
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2014	Letter of interest	Students and their parents/carers will receive a letter and form to complete. This is to express which combination of subjects would interest them most to help us shape and further refine our "Future Choices event" and curriculum. This should be returned to the Tutor <b>by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.</b>
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Option Booklet and bespoke pathway Options Form released to students.	The Options Booklet contains a wealth of information about each course we will offer, what the expected workload will be, the course content and how it will be assessed. Having taken into consideration each student's ability, interest and future plans we will ask them to complete an Options Form showing their final choices. This does not need to be completed at this point. It does however, show what courses are on offer to each student as not all courses will be appropriate to all students, and due to the bespoke nature of this process not all students have the same number of choices to make. Read through the choices with your son/daughter and discuss which they would like to study.
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Future Choices Evening	An evening where a number of colleges and further education providers will be available to discuss the grades needed in order to plan in detail for careers that students have in mind. This has proven to be a point of great inspiration for students. We will also have our departments showcasing their courses so students and their parents/carers can find out all the information they to make such crucial decisions.
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Deadline to return Option choices form to Tutor	<b>This is the last day to return the completed Options Form.</b> It should be returned to the Tutor. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's Tutor before this deadline.
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> February (Gold half) and Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> February (Purple half) 2015	Year 9 Parents Evenings	These evenings are your opportunity to discuss your son/daughters progress in their respective subjects. You may wish to also book an appointment with our Careers, Advice and Guidance Advisor who will be available on both evenings should you feel you require any more information about courses or career requirements.