



Wednesday, 14 November 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Year 9 Options Choices 2018-19**

Year 9 is an important time for pupils, as they get to choose subjects they wish to continue next year. In order to help with this choice, it is vital that parents and pupils are aware of the key dates and know how the options process takes place.

Most of the curriculum studied next year is directed by the Welsh Government. Therefore, pupils will study English, Mathematics (both Numeracy and Pure Maths qualifications), Science, Welsh, Religious Studies and the new Welsh Baccalaureate Award.

However, pupils will also be expected to choose **three** optional subjects as well. They will continue these subjects throughout Year 10 and 11. Choosing the right options can be difficult for pupils. This is why we endeavour to support pupils and parents as much as we can.

The subjects that we will provisionally offer next year are:

**Art & Design, Business, Catering, Child Development, Computer Science, Design Technology, Textiles, Drama, Engineering, French, Geography, History, ICT, Music, PE.**

To start with, we will conduct a Free Choice Survey on **Tuesday 13th November**. Here, pupils will be given a sheet and asked to choose which of these subjects they would prefer to do. This is not their final choice, but the process that we can use to try and minimise timetable clashes.

Following this, on **Thursday 29th November**, the school is holding its Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening. This is where parents and pupils will get the opportunity to discuss current progress and also see what the subjects have to offer in Year 10 and 11. Options booklets and option choice sheets will be issued on this night. They will have until **Friday 7th December** to make their options choices.

The vast majority of pupils will get the choices they want. However, we also have to add a note of caution. Due to the way that timetables have to be structured, the option combinations that pupils would like are not always available. Further, if only a few pupils opt for a course, it will have to be withdrawn. Therefore, it is also worth considering a fourth choice.

Finally, we also recognise that pupils might change their minds during the remainder of Year 9. Therefore, we offer an options window in **June 2019**. This is a chance for pupils to revise their choices. However, pupils should also be aware that other courses may be full by then so change is not always possible.

We have already introduced the options process to pupils with an assembly, but would welcome your support by discussing subject choices with your child.

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Mewn Teuluoedd

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Mertens".

Mrs A Mertens  
Progress Manager Year 9

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T. Stancombe".

Mr T Stancombe  
Senior Assistant Headteacher