

17th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 9 Timeline of Key events - Options Pathways

I am writing to provide a timeline for the remainder of the year ahead for our year 9 students. This is an exciting time for the students as they start to consider their 'options' based on their GCSE pathways.

I trust that this letter will help explain the process, but also highlight the opportunities that you will have to gain information and advice to support your son/daughter.

I would like to congratulate our year 9 students for their hard work and commitment demonstrated during their recent exam series, before the Christmas break. The vast majority behaved excellently and demonstrated how seriously they were taking the process. It was also a very helpful learning experience to practise how to behave in a formal exam environment.

The examination results from this cycle will inform the discussions that you will have with subject teachers both at the upcoming parents evening and options information evening (details below).

During the options process, **the school will allocate pathways** to individual students, please note that these are not solely based upon the recent year 9 exams. We look at each student individually and also consider their ability level, current and prior progress, aspirations, and literacy levels. We also decide these in conjunction with our Heads of Faculty, who all have a wealth of experience when dealing with this process.

Our aim is to ensure **success** at GCSE and prepare each student for their next steps post 16. More information will be provided on the Options Microsite (shared next Friday) and at the Options Evening (details below) to ensure that both your son/daughter and yourself are fully equipped with all the information to make an informed decision. However, our [curriculum intent](#) can currently be viewed on our website.

Please find below a timeline of key events to be aware of during this important time in your son/daughter's 7 year journey at RVHS:

- **Tuesday 16th January** - Report sent home to all parents/carers outlining progress in all subjects areas.
- **Thursday 18th January** - Year 9 Parents evening
- **Friday 26th January** - Year 9 Options microsite to be shared with all parents/carers & students. The site contains information on subject choices, pathways and details of the curriculum offer. Students will also be provided with individual pathway details by individual letter. *Please note, our 2023 one is on our website- but won't contain updated subject options!*
- **Week beginning 5th February** - Year 9 Taster week during lessons- an opportunity for students to experience GCSE subjects not previously studied at KS3, these subjects include Media, Social Sciences
- **Thursday 8th February 5.30pm - 7.15pm** - All Year 9 parents are invited into school for the Options Evening. The evening will explain the **options pathways**. It will also provide parents/carers with an opportunity to meet subject leads to gain information on the GCSE courses offered and studied. (details to be sent via email). The application form will also be sent to all students/parents/carers during this evening.

- **Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th February** 3pm - 4pm - **Optional** Support Clinic will be held after school for parents/carers to book appointments to discuss any queries face to face, if you have queries/ concerns regarding your individual child. (An email with a Google form to request a meeting will be sent to all parents/carers)
- **Friday 8th March** - Options Form **hand in deadline** for all students.

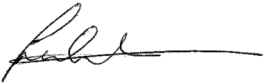
We also wanted to let you know that there will also be other targeted events aimed at specific groups of students during this process to ensure that they receive as much information as possible. If your son/ daughter is invited to participate in any of these events, then you will be contacted directly.

I really hope that the timeline above gives you an indication of all of the support that is planned for you and your son/daughter during this most important process. We will provide numerous opportunities for your son/daughter to engage in the process and seek information to help them make their choices for KS4 study.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We also know that many questions will be addressed and answered during our options Evening.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr F Ryan
Year Progress Leader Year 9
fryan@rodingvalley.net



Ms P Larkin
Deputy Head Teacher
plarkin@rodingvalley.net