

Thursday 21st January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well. As you know, when your son/daughter was in Year 8 they made choices of which option GCSEs they would like to study in Year 9, and this year has provided all students with a good taster in their chosen courses. However, since all students' workload will increase with GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Science (Combined Award) Mathematics and Religious Education in Years 10 and 11, they will now be guided into their best three option choices from the four they are currently studying for when they start year 10. In addition, a small group of students will be targeted to do BTEC Travel & Tourism instead of GCSE Religious Education to maximise their outcomes at the end of year 11. More time needs to be devoted to the core subjects in order to prepare students as best we can.

All students will therefore study their best three option subjects in year 10, ensuring that one subject is in each block shown below. These blocks are fixed as defined by our staffing and facilities and are based on giving our pupils their best three options:

Option X	Option Y	Option Z
GCSE Drama	GCSE Art	GCSE Art
BTEC Business Enterprise	GCSE Business	BTEC Business Enterprise
GCSE Geography	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE French
GCSE History	GCSE Dance	GCSE Geography
BTEC Digital Information Technology	GCSE Geography	GCSE History
BTEC Music Technology	GCSE History	BTEC Digital Information Technology
BTEC Sport, Activity & Fitness	BTEC Performing Arts	GCSE Music
GCSE Spanish	GCSE Physical Education	BTEC Sport, Activity & Fitness
GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Physical Education
	GCSE Design & Technology	

Restrictions caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic mean we cannot carry out the options process as we normally would. Therefore, we are holding our curriculum information evening online on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 7pm live through your son/daughters MS Teams account on the year nine page. Hopefully this will allow us to explain the rationale for change and the proposed timeline. Following that, if you have any questions please email Mr Douglas on edouglas@stgcc.co.uk

As you will see on the enclosed timeline, **providing we are out of a national lockdown** you will have an opportunity to meet a senior member of staff on mentoring day Tuesday 30th March 2021 after your appointment with your son/daughter's tutor to discuss their options. Enclosed in this booklet is a timeline of the process. During this meeting we aim to identify the best three best option choices from the four subjects your son/daughter is currently studying. You will receive a letter outlining which three subjects we feel are most suitable for your son/daughter. Please note Year 9 will currently be the only year group onsite on mentoring day for their appointments. We will put in place strict social distancing measures to ensure our students, parents and staff are as safe as possible. Please ensure you are wearing a face covering when you arrive on site. Once you have had your tutor appointment in your son/daughters tutor room please go to the college canteen or main hall in the main building for your options appointment. Please see the next page for details.

- Mr Habberley – 9AL & 9DL College Canteen – Main Building
- Mr Walford – 9JP & 9KO College Canteen – Main Building
- Mr Douglas – 9TE & 9RO Main Hall – Main Building
- Mr Devine - 9BA & 9FR Main Hall – Main Building

If you would prefer a meeting through MS Teams to discuss your son/daughters' options and tutor appointment please let myself, Mr Douglas or Miss Foord know by Tuesday 23rd March 2021. Our email addresses are head@stgcc.co.uk or edouglas@stgcc.co.uk or your progress leader for year 9 Miss A Foord at afoord@stgcc.co.uk If you have any questions please contact us as above. Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Habberley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'H'.

Mr J Habberley
Head Teacher