



01/02/21

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 9 Options

I hope you and your family are well.

Firstly, I would like to emphasise how proud I am of all our learners for their adaptability, whilst readjusting to our Distance Learning programme. We have been extremely pleased with the level of engagement and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

As you will be aware, our secondary curriculum model recently changed. As such, I write to provide further details regarding the Options process for our Year 9 learners. Please note, details of the changes to our curriculum model were featured in the Trust Autumn Term Newsletter and updated on our academy website under the Curriculum tab.

Unfortunately, due to the current climate, we are unable to communicate the Options process as we had originally planned. However, the academy is working extremely hard to ensure that Year 9 learners receive the best 'virtual' experience so that they can make informed decisions and 'Dream big' for the future.

Learners will choose their option subjects in the latter part of the Spring Term. Therefore, I would like to confirm the following upcoming communications:

- a) Initial online options event – Thursday 4th February 2021 at 7pm

An online options event for Year 9 learners will take place. This event will set the scene for learners, detailing what the options process means for them and encouraging them to think about their preferred subjects. An overview of the subjects on offer will be provided as part of the event.

- b) A Microsoft Forms Survey (w/c 01/02/21)

Following the virtual options event, Year 9 learners will be provided with a Microsoft Forms link to an Options survey. The purpose of this survey will be for learners to express their initial interest in their preferred subjects. This survey will also enable the academy to forward plan. *Note that this survey will be for learners to register their interest for subjects and not where learners choose their final options; this will be completed in the latter part of the Spring Term.*



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c) Virtual content (ongoing)

The academy will be creating exciting virtual content, which will help learners with their decisions. This includes Vodcasts, Videos and Learner Reviews of our diverse range of subjects. Subject teachers are in regular communication with learners and as such, will offer direct and continued support.

In addition to the above, the academy is in the process of producing an Options Brochure. This brochure will provide further details of each subject area. Where applicable, content will also be added to our academy website under the Curriculum tab. Our dedicated Careers team will also be on hand to provide one to one support to learners. Additional Careers information will be released in due course to support the Year 9 Options process.

We know that these are very uncertain times however, we want to reassure you that the academy will provide the relevant information and support for your child through this process. As always, please do contact us directly via our academy helpline, general@stjamesacademy.org.uk for any further information.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Moore
Principal



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