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25 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Virtual Year 9 Options evening - Tuesday 9 February 2021

I hope this finds you well.

As you may be aware, it is at this time in the academic calendar that we would invite you into school for our Year 9 Options Evening. Considering the current lockdown restrictions, we will be unable to do this this year. To ensure your son/daughter finds out as much information as they can about GCSE option subjects, we have planned a number of different ways to share this important information.

Year 9 Subject Reports

All staff who teach Year 9 classes are currently completing reports, this means you will receive information about how your child has been working across all their subjects since September 2020. This should be a useful basis to help with option choices and will give you some idea of how well your child is doing. These will be posted home on Friday 5 February 2021.

Direct 'chat' messages to teachers

All subject teachers are happy to receive 'chat' messages from any Year 9 students asking them about studying their subject at GCSE level. This way of sharing information can be used with immediate effect.

On-line Options booklet

From the 2 February 2021, there will be a link on the Academy website homepage. If you click on this link, you will have access to several resources to support your child to make the right decision choices for their options. One of these resources will be an electronic version of the options booklet that will have all the key information in for each subject we offer at GCSE or BTEC level.

On-line Subject videos

All option subjects will be doing a short 3-to-5-minute video about studying their subject to GCSE or BTEC level. These will also be available on the options evening link on our website from Tuesday 2 February.

On-line consultation with staff member

We will also be opening the 'School Cloud' appointment booking system for this evening. This will allow you to book a short consultation appointment to speak directly to Curriculum leaders or options teaching staff on Tuesday 9 February, between 1.30 – 5.30pm. Appointments will be 5-minutes in length, so please think about any questions you may have before the appointment starts. We would ask that you only use this form of communication for any subject that your child is seriously considering and where you still feel you need



more information to make a fully informed decision. Appointment bookings will be open from 9.00 am on Tuesday 2 February to 5.00 pm on Friday 5 February 2021.

On-Line Option Form

On the weblink, there will also be the options form that all Y9 students will need to complete. Once you have gathered all the information you need, and your child is happy they know what they want to choose, you will need to complete the on-line options form. When you press submit on this form, it will automatically be sent to school where we will collect the information. You should expect to receive an acknowledgement email/ text from school to confirm that we have received your form.

All the information that you need to complete the form will be in the options booklet. To help with the process, I have set up an email account: Y9options@stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk and any queries that you have at any time can be sent through to this email address and I will be able to respond to them in a timely manner. If your child accesses additional support your child's allocated key worker will be available to speak with.

I will be in touch with you all again, once the weblink on our website is completed. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further support.

Yours sincerely,



Clare M Humble
Vice Principal