



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our year 9 students have just passed the mid-point of the year, which also marks the mid-point of their high school career. It seems a good time to set out the plans for the rest of year 9 and give a guide to how they will be supported in preparing to start GCSE courses in September.

In year 10 all students will continue to study English, Maths and Science and 95% are expected to take a language. All students must study either History or Geography and every student will have core PE lessons. They will then select from a range of optional subjects to complete their curriculum. This is a very important milestone in your child's school career and we will support them through the decision-making process, a timeline of events is shown below.

Date	Event	Description
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Move to GCSE style mixed ability groups in some subjects	All GCSE optional subjects are taught in mixed ability groups so this will help students prepare for the rigour of Year 10 classes. The changes affect Humanities, Languages and Computing, all other subjects remain the same.
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Careers Fair	The whole year group will be invited to attend a careers fair being held in Norwich.
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Assessments Completed	These assessments will help students consider their strengths and areas for improvement.
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Parents Evening	This is a face to face traditional parents evening where you will be invited to meet with all your child's teachers.
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Options Assembly	The choices available to your child for study in Year 10 will be explained and detailed in an Options Booklet.
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Options Evening	You will be invited to attend a talk describing the Year 10 curriculum and the choices to be made. You will then have an opportunity to visit subjects across the school to see examples of work and talk to teachers and current students.
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Options interviews begin	Each student will have an individual interview with a senior member of staff to discuss their aims for the future and possible subject choices.
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Options deadline	Students will be asked to submit their subject preferences online.
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Confirmation letters sent home	Once all the preferences have been considered and timetable blocks planned then you will receive a confirmation letter detailing the subjects your child will study in year 10.
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Follow up interviews	An additional interview is offered to any student and parents who have queries about their individual future curriculum.

We write to you with further information as these events approach. Throughout year 9 students receive information and guidance about future careers through their PHSE lessons, tutor sessions and assemblies. While thoughts must start to turn towards choices for year 10, the best advice I can offer students is to work hard in all subjects throughout year 9 and maintain good attitude to learning grades. Not all first-choice preferences can be accommodated and students change their minds as they work through the process. So, while it is sensible to start thinking about which subjects they would like to take further, all subjects currently studied need full application.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N. K. Willingham  
Headteacher