

December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Options Process

Merry Christmas and we wish you a Happy New Year. I hope you and your family enjoy a well-deserved break over the holidays. I want to contact you before the festive season to introduce myself to you as the new Deputy Headteacher starting at Stocksbridge High School in January who will be leading your child's options process. We have lots of Y9 option activities and events happening in half term 3, which we feel parents/carers will appreciate knowing about in advance.

Y9 students during half term 3 will be progressing through their Key Stage 4 options selection process. Students will be asked to make subject choices through a supportive process, aimed at giving both you and your child as much information as possible. The options process will be as follows:

w/c Monday 6 January 2025: Y9 Assembly – Introduction to the options process/making the right choices.

w/c Monday 13 January 2025: Y9 parent reports sent, SIMs parent app + Y9 Assembly – Understanding the difference between GCSEs and Vocational qualifications.

w/c Monday 20 January 2025: Y9 Options Week – Key Stage 4 taster lessons will be delivered to Y9 students in subject areas.

Tuesday 21 January 2025: Y9 Parents Evening – This is an opportunity to speak to individual members of staff regarding the progress of your child and have some initial options conversations.

Wednesday 22 January 2025: Y9 Options Day – During this day students will have talks with local colleges as well as an opportunity to research careers. Students will receive their options booklet via Microsoft Teams. Parents/carers will also receive a copy via SIMs parent app.

Wednesday 29 January 2025: Y9 Options Evening – all parents/carers are welcome. Subject specialist staff will be available to discuss their subject and a presentation to explain the options process.

w/c Monday 3 February 2025: Students completing options choice forms, discussing with parents/carers and asking questions of class teachers on specifics via Microsoft Teams where needed.

w/c Monday 24 February 2025: Deadline for option submissions via Microsoft Forms.

w/c Monday 3 March 2025: Options Interviews – Students will have an individual interview with a senior member of staff (format to be confirmed) where their options choices and

reasoning will be reviewed. This meeting will conclude with the approval of the options choices, or a suggestion of revisiting and discussion with parents/carers if there are any issues.

Through a guided pathway model, students will be asked to make a series of choices depending upon the pathway they are allocated to. We are committed to offering a broad curriculum offer to all our students.

The selection of options is always a stressful time, but I would like to reassure you that I am confident the support we offer will enable everyone to make the right choices. If you feel your child may need additional support through this process, please initially contact your child's Form Tutor. Form Tutor contact details are listed below:

Form Group:	Email address:
9KLI	Klister@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk
9BBR	Bbradshaw@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk
9LAR	Larmitage@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk
9MWA	Mwalker@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk
9HJO	Hjones@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk
9CSM	Csmith70@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk
Y9 Pastoral Leader	Dbriggs@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you next half term.

Many thanks



Miss Claire Johnson
Deputy Headteacher