



March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Key Stage 4 Courses and Options 2023 - 2025

Throughout the first three years of your child's secondary education each student has received a broad and balanced curriculum, following the national curriculum guidelines. It is now time to ensure that they are ready for the courses in Years 10 and 11, leading up to GCSE external examinations. All students will follow GCSE qualifications in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science, as well as Physical Education which is also compulsory. In addition students will study four option subjects that they choose after they have had guidance discussions with school and family and spent time reflecting on their interests, ability and career aspirations.

In order to inform students about the options available to them, there is an options page on Friern Barnet School's website. This can be found here: <https://www.friern.barnet.sch.uk/curriculum/year-9-options/>

On this page you will find videos for every subject outlining what is involved in studying each subject at GCSE. There is also: a video giving an overview of the options process; a video explaining how students select their subjects; some advice from KS4 students who have been through the process; a booklet which gives further information about options and answers many of the questions you and your child may have. Please spend some time looking at the information available with your child and discussing their interests and areas of strength at school, what they hope to do in the future and which options will help them to achieve their goals.

To support the options process, we will be holding a Year 9 Options' Evening on Wednesday 22 March 2023, which will run from 6:00pm until 7:00pm. Every subject, including the core subjects, will have teachers present who can answer any questions you or your child may have about studying that subject at GCSE, in order to support your child in their decision making. There will also be a presentation in the hall which will answer some of the common questions that parents and carers have about options selection. As space in the hall is limited, this presentation will take place at 6.00pm for students, parents and carers in forms 9A, 9B and 9C and will be repeated at 6.30pm for 9D, 9E and 9F. The Options Evening is open to all parents and carers of students in Year 9 and there is no need to reserve a place.

If you have any questions about the options process then please do not hesitate to contact me via email at k.newey@friern.barnet.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

Ms Newey
Assistant Head Teacher