



International School Award
2010-2013



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The TRUE Learning Partnership



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Options Information Evening for Parents of Year 9 Students

Your son / daughter is approaching the time when they give us their preferences for the subjects they want to study at Key Stage 4. Key dates are detailed below.

To help you understand this process, and obtain subject specific information about the options subjects, we will be launching a Parent Options event on Wednesday 24th February 2021. This will consist of a recorded presentation for parents which will explain the options process and will be available on the school website. There will also be subject presentations for the optional courses on offer. Students will receive a subject presentation in their lessons between 24th February and 10th March. With some subjects, that are new to GCSE, the subject presentations will take place during registration. Dance will be having a Parent Cloud meeting on Tuesday 2nd March and Drama will be holding a zoom meeting on Wednesday 10th March when you will be able to get further information. This is because these subjects are not delivered by the staff that teach GCSE this year. Details about these will be sent out next half term.

Subject Preferences for Year 10 in September 2021

You will be aware that in Year 10 students are given some choice in the subjects they will study for GCSE. In order to ensure a balanced curriculum, all students study GCSE courses in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science and Religious Studies. In addition, they continue Physical Education and aspects of Personal and Social Education and Citizenship which are not examined. This core covers thirty periods of curriculum time allowing twenty periods for option choices.

Students will study **four option subjects** at GCSE. Students will tell us on the options form what their subject preferences are. We will then work with them to ensure that they choose a balanced range of choices for Key Stage 4.

It is important that students meet the deadlines for the options form. If subjects are oversubscribed students may not be able to take that course and this is more likely if the form is late. If there are insufficient numbers to make the course viable then the course will not run.

In our last inspection, Ofsted praised our curriculum which is 'carefully tailored to meet the needs of pupils and supports their good achievement'. The options process is a key part of that success and I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours faithfully

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Year 9 Options Process 2021

Before completing the options form students should think carefully about their potential future pathways. If students are interested in study at university it is worth them looking at www.informedchoices.ac.uk. The National Careers Service website is also useful at <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

All students have access to the START Platform. Start is an online careers platform designed to show future career ideas. To access their accounts students should go to www.startincheshireandwarrington.com and a reminder regarding log in details will be sent by the Careers Department shortly.

- 24th February 2021** Options Evening for Parents. This will be a recorded presentation.
- 24th February 2021** Options Booklet issued during Form time and on Year 9 Google classroom.
- 24th February to 10th March** Subject presentation by class teachers on Google classroom
- 4th March 2021** Year 9 Parents Evening
- 16th March 2021** Options forms to be submitted online - the link will go on the website.

Between 24th February and 16th March Form Tutors will be working with students on their option choices. Our Careers Department will support our students at this important decision making time and Form Tutors can refer students whom they think would benefit from the opportunity of a careers appointment, or alternatively students or their parents can request this directly by emailing Mrs Bibby, our Careers Lead on sbibby@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Tuesday 16th March 2021 Options forms to be submitted online

Please note that the Options Information Evening on Wednesday 24th February is a recorded presentation. Students will have an Options presentation and received the Options booklet earlier that day. They will also have the opportunity to talk to subject staff about courses during their normal lesson times over this Options period.