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4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Key Stage 4 Options: Year 9 into Years 10 and 11

It is now time for your child to begin to specialise in his/her subject areas, having to date studied the full range of National Curriculum subjects.

We expect all of our students to leave school with the best possible qualifications and be future ready and prepared for their next steps. We want all of our students to have the qualifications and opportunity to go to university if they so wish and we want to work with you to help them fulfil that potential if that is their desire. Equally, we want to provide a broad and balanced curriculum with cultural links to the wider world which enables students to enrich their experiences at school and make more informed choices about post-16 and beyond.

This is an important time for your son/daughter as they start the process of decision making involved in choosing their KS4 courses. During this time subject teachers and form tutors will be working with students to assess their progress in various subjects and to help them identify their skills, interests and personal qualities.

We have planned a full programme of advice and guidance for students and their parents.

- On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 from 4pm there will be a Virtual Parents and Pathways Evening.
  Here you will be able to have conversations with subject teachers, access an overview presentation
  about the Options process and attend virtual workshops to ensure you and your child are making
  informed choices. The workshops and overview presentation can be accessed at any time during
  the evening. Appointments with your child's subject teachers can be made via the school cloud
  app.
- Between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 The Aspirations programme in tutor will help support your child in making their choices along with faculty areas giving students more information on the courses available during lessons. Mrs Towers our Higher Education Progression Officer is also available to provide guidance to your child.
- Your child's tutor will be making calls home from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to check in with your family and
  provide further guidance if needed making sure that the choices being made are the right ones for
  your child.
- Form **18**<sup>th</sup> **January 2021** SLT will being carrying out drop in appointments with your child to confirm the final choices your child makes in time for the deadline on **3**<sup>rd</sup> **February**. This week your child will also receive their latest assessment grades.



Headteacher: Tina Smith CEO, Beckfoot Trust: David Horn Chair of Academy Trustees: John Winkley



• By **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**, the Options form must be returned to school at the year group entrance. Forms returned after this date may well result in disappointment over choices.

After the deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, we have a great deal of work to do to process all the sets of KS4 choices and we do our best to ensure every student is happy with the result. Confirmation of the courses allocated to each student will be sent to all parents in June.

This is a complex process but it gives you and your child plenty of opportunity to seek advice and discuss the issues involved. We know that you will want to help your son/daughter get the most from their education and to be positive about their future. If you have any questions surrounding this process, then please don't hesitate to contact myself or the Year 9 Year Team Leader Willow Stocker or Assistant Year Team Leader Nicola Farrar who will be able to help you.

I look forward to working further with you over the academic year.

Yours faithfully

Chris Coombes Assistant Headteacher (Quality of Education)