



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Monday 20th April 2020

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well during these unfortunate and unprecedented times.

We all at the school are working tirelessly to ensure that our pupils, your children, are able to access learning as best as they possibly can. Please be reminded that if you have any queries, or for trouble-shooting, you can email year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com.

Despite these unusual times, we must continue to look forward to the future. Your children are at a phase in their education where they need to start thinking about their next steps and future pathways, and this means, more immediately, their GCSEs.

We would normally be holding assemblies and holding meetings with you and your children to inform you about the Options process – but we are unable to do this at the moment.

As a result, we have collated an Options Information Booklet for you and your children to read through and study in order to fully inform you about GCSEs at Platanos College – for both compulsory subjects and subjects that your child/ren can choose one from as an option.

It is the hope that this will better inform you and your child about GCSEs and the option subject that they can choose from.

From Monday 4th May 2020, we will be holding telephone interviews with all pupils and their parents to help in the choosing of the option subject.

- This phone call will be from a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- It will last for approximately 10 minutes.
- At the end of this phone call, we will ask what option subject your child would like to take – there will be a first and second choice.

Some things to consider before this telephone interview:

- The telephone call will come from a withheld number.

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- Both you and your child should ensure that they have read the Option Information Booklet prior to the call.
- Once the option choices have been made, it might not be possible to change them.
- Since the government changes to the grade 9-1 GCSEs, GCSE examinations in England and Wales have become more challenging.
- For some option subjects you will notice current grade requirements. For example, Business Studies and Computer Science have current grade requirements linked to mathematics. For some option subjects it would not be suitable for some of our pupils to study them without a specific level in mathematics – they would not be able to access the course content, they may regret the options choice, and therefore this would be setting our pupils up to fail.
- In addition to this, for a minority of pupils, the option subjects that we have on offer may not be suitable, and for these pupils we will be able to offer a more technical or vocational option.
- In the event of a subject becoming oversubscribed, attendance, punctuality and behaviour records will be taken into account in being accepted for a first-choice option.

The extraordinary Options process we have planned for is by no means ideal. However, until we receive further guidance from the UK government on when it is safe to reopen schools, we must continue to plan for the new academic year.

We cannot delay this process as the planning for the new academic year begins in the Summer term.

If you have any queries regarding the Options process, please consult the Options Information Booklet as your first point of reference. Any additional queries can be made by emailing the year 9 pastoral email account year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com.

On behalf of all of the staff at the school, we thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mr W. Bourke
Deputy Headteacher

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