

15 January 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Key Stage 4 Options Booklet and Curriculum Information Evening

The options process is an exciting time for Year 9 students as it enables them to begin to personalise their own curriculum and to consider their next steps. We have attached the Options booklet to enable you and your child to begin to have conversations about their choices. The booklet aims to provide you with key information about our option subjects and pathway allocation, as well as providing guidance about how to make these important decisions.

There is a great deal of support available to you and your child to enable them to make positive decisions about their choices. Students will take part in a Careers and Options Character Day on Wednesday 21st January. This day engages students in exploring a wide variety of destinations after Downlands, as well as introducing them to the options process.

Between now and the deadline of Friday 13th February, there are key events which will help you to support your child with their decision making.

Thursday 22nd January: Options Evening 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Parents/carers and students are invited to attend an Options Evening which will include a talk outlining the options process. This talk is followed by an options fair where parents/carers and students can find out more about different options choices. Students do not need to wear uniform.

Time	Thursday 22nd January, 6pm-8pm
6.00-6.45pm	Presentation of the Options process Location: Hall Tutor Groups: 9LM, 9CH, 9BC, 9MLO, 9CP
6.00-6.45pm	Visit Departmental displays Location: Canteen and signed venues Tutor Groups: 9CT, 9NK, 9EJ, 9CBA
7.00-7.45pm	Presentation of the Options process Location: Hall Tutor Groups: 9CT, 9NK, 9EJ, 9CBA
7.00-7.45pm	Visit Departmental displays Location: Canteen and signed venues Tutor Groups: 9LM, 9CH, 9BC, 9MLO, 9CP
8.00pm	Evening ends



All option subject areas will be represented and there will be stalls with examples of work, textbooks and other relevant materials. There will be an opportunity to ask subject specialist teachers about the curriculum in all subjects at Key Stage 4.

Information about the completion of the on-line Options Choices form will be given on this evening and further guidance will be sent out **on Friday 23rd January** when the Options Choices form opens on MCAS, with a completion deadline of 8:00am on **Friday 13th February**.

Thursday 29th January: Year 9 Consultation Evening 4:00pm – 7:00pm

The Y9 Consultation Evening will give parents/carers and students the opportunity to discuss student progress.

I look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 22nd January**.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Adams".

Mr S Adams
Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum