



12 March 2021

Dear Year 9 Parents/ Guardians

This year, our new GCSE Options Booklet is available electronically and can be found on our school website (Curriculum -> Options Booklet). This booklet contains information about the KS4 curriculum at Trinity, detailed advice on choosing options as well as information about each subject at KS4. It is important that this booklet is read carefully as part of the preparation for making important choices about study options at KS4.

School Support for Option Choices

Over the last few weeks Year 9 students have had a number of virtual careers related sessions to help prepare them for their upcoming options decisions. Students have been introduced to Unifrog, a one-stop-shop careers platform, that students will use throughout their time at Trinity as part of our Careers Programme. Students can use the platform to learn about the range of careers and further education options that various subject choices could lead to in the future. Parents are also encouraged to use the platform for research and can do so using the parents' code - **TCHSparents** (www.unifrog.org/code). Students were also shown how to use a complementary careers site (www.careerpilot.org.uk) where students learnt how to use a 'skills builder' tool to identify their skills set and explored possible careers based on these skills.

In addition to these online resources, there has been a virtual presentation by Ms Gray, a careers advisor from the Prospects Student Careers Service. Ms Gray spoke to students about how to approach GCSE option decisions, how to use labour market information to inform themselves of growing job sectors and how jobs are likely to change in the future. Two interactive careers events were also run for students - **Ask a Sixth Former** and **Ask a Professional**. These sessions were designed to give students the opportunity to hear from some of our Year 13 students, and professionals (i.e. Publisher, Financial Controller, Digital Marketing Manager, Software Engineer, BBC Broadcast Journalist and Research Scientist) about the GCSE subjects they chose and the further education and career paths they led to. If students missed any of these events and would like to watch a recording, they can do so via Teams – please email Mrs Jones (kjones@tchs.uk.net) for details.

Furthermore, Year 11 Prefects have created high quality videos outlining their first-hand experiences of studying particular option subjects and why they would recommend such choices to Year 9 students. These videos provide personal insights into GCSE lessons, reflections on the differences between KS3 and KS4 study and give sound advice for Year 9 students on how to approach the decision process and best prepare themselves for GCSE study.



In addition to the booklet, subject choices at KS4 will be advertised to students during lesson time and there will be a general talk over the next week for all form groups advising students on the KS4 curriculum and the choices of subjects available to them. The following advice is also available should parents and students require this:

- Mrs Jones (Careers Leader) will be available during lunchtimes on the following dates for student interviews. Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 March (Lower Site Room 12), Wednesday 31 March (Upper Site Careers Office in Monteluca House) and after the Easter Holidays on Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 April (Lower Site Room 12) and Wednesday 21 April (Upper Site Careers Office).
- Mrs Jones will also be available to speak to/ meet remotely with parents, on Monday 29 to Wednesday 31 March and Monday 19 to Wednesday 21 April, between 9.30am - 12 noon and 1.30pm - 4pm. If you would like to arrange a time to speak to/ meet remotely with Mrs Jones, or if students would like to arrange a lunch time appointment, please email kjones@tchs.uk.net.
- During Tuesday 30 March from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and Tuesday 20 April from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, Ms Harding (Head of Year 9) is available for remote individual interviews with parents and will provide advice on KS4 option choices. Parents should contact Miss Daheley on Lower Site, telephone number 020 8504 8946, to arrange appointments in advance.

The parents of all students on the SEN register will be contacted by Mrs Lowther and interviews arranged concerning option choices between Monday 29 March - Friday 23 April.

At the Year 9 Subject Evening on Tuesday 27 April, teachers will provide subject options information and advice.

For additional help with making GCSE option decisions, we recommend the following websites:

- **BBC Bitesize:** GCSE Options: everything you need to know about choosing your GCSE subjects (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p>)
- **National Careers Service:** Information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning training and work (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>)
- **Studential:** Information and advice on all stages of education (<https://www.studential.com/GCSEs/choosing-your-GCSE-subject-options>)



Trinity Catholic High School

Headmaster: Dr P C Doherty OBE, BA (Hons), DPhil (Oxon), FRSA

Please submit your child's option choices by completing an online form through ParentMail by **Thursday 29 April 2021** at the latest. It is important that this form is completed correctly following information contained on the online option form and within the booklet. Please email cleung@tchs.uk.net if you need any help in submitting your form online. I would advise that you do not complete this form until after the Year 9 Subject Evening on 27 April.

In summary, our advice on deciding subject choices at GCSE remains as always. Students should choose a broad range of subjects; subjects that will support career aspirations and, very importantly, subjects that they enjoy.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please encourage your son/ daughter to think carefully about option choices and to seek advice if this is needed.

Yours sincerely

Dr P C Doherty OBE
Headmaster

Miss A Corry
First Deputy Head

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