



22 March 2022

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. In addition to these sessions, 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. Interactive careers events were also run for students – a week long **Careers Cafe** and **Ask a Professional webinars**. These sessions were designed to give students the opportunity to hear from some professionals (i.e. Games Designer, Human Resources Director, Actress and Voiceover Artist, Speech and Language Therapist, Bloomberg Journalist and Economist, King's College London Teacher of Romance Language and Linguistics) about the GCSE subjects they chose and the further education and career paths they led to. If students/parents missed any of these events and would like to watch a recording, please email Mrs Thomas (sthomas@tchs.org.uk) for details.

Furthermore, Year 11 and Year 13 students have filmed a high-quality video outlining their first-hand experiences of studying particular option subjects and why they would recommend such choices to Year 9 students. This video provides personal insights into GCSE lessons, reflections on the differences between KS3 and KS4 study and gives 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 Thomas (Careers Leader) will be available during lunchtimes on the following dates for student interviews. Tuesday 29 March and Wednesday 30 March (Upper Site Careers Office in Monteluca House) and after the Easter Holidays on Tuesday 19 April and Wednesday 20 April (Lower Site Room 1).
- Mrs Thomas will also be available to speak to/ meet remotely with parents, on Tuesday 29 March, Wednesday 30 March, Tuesday 19 April and Wednesday 20 April, between 9.30am – 11.30am. If



Trinity Catholic High School

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you would like to arrange a time to speak to/ meet remotely with Mrs Thomas, or if students would like to arrange a lunch time appointment, please email sthomas@tchs.org.uk.

- During Thursday 31 March from 9.15am to 11.45am and Thursday 21 April from 9.15am to 11.45am, Mr Kennedy (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 21 March - Wednesday 20 April.

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>)

Please submit your child's option choices by completing an online form through ParentMail by **Friday 22 April 2022** 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.org.uk if you need any help in submitting your form online.

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
Deputy Head

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