

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Year 9 Options Process**

As your child progresses through Year 9, we are approaching an important milestone in their secondary education: the selection of GCSE and BTEC option subjects.

Over the coming weeks, students will be supported through our GCSE options process, which is designed to help them make informed and ambitious choices that reflect their interests, strengths, and future aspirations. While certain subjects remain compulsory, students will also have the opportunity to choose from a range of optional subjects that will form part of their Key Stage 4 curriculum.

This booklet has key dates that make up the options process. There is also further information about the curriculum that students will have access to in September. Please see the diagram on the next page, for a clear explanation of the routes available to your child(ren). We will do our utmost to ensure that every student is able to follow their option choices. However, in some cases, this may not be possible and we will contact you to discuss this should your child(ren) be affected.

We recognise that choosing GCSE options is a significant decision for both students and families. To support this process, we will be providing a range of guidance and information, including assemblies for students, careers information and opportunities to discuss choices with subject leaders and form tutors.

We strongly encourage you to discuss the options with your child and to consider not only their current enjoyment of subjects, but also their strengths, progress, and possible future pathways. Our staff will offer advice to ensure that choices are balanced and appropriate, and that every student is well prepared for success in KS4.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working in partnership with you to help your child make confident and informed choices for the next stage of their education.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Year 9 Director of Studies, Ms Ratcliffe on [k.ratcliffe@beechwood.slough.sch.uk](mailto:k.ratcliffe@beechwood.slough.sch.uk) or email [enquiries@beechwood.slough.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@beechwood.slough.sch.uk)

**RESPECT**

**KINDNESS**

**EXCELLENCE**

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