

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Office Documents/Events Guide/Options Evening/2021

1st February 2021

Dear parent and carer

Year 9 Options

I hope you and your family are keeping well. As you may be aware, Year 9 students are required to make choices in terms of what they wish to study to GCSE examination level in years 10 and 11. These subjects should be a reflection of the abilities, interest, aspirations and needs of each student.

The selection of these subjects should be made through discussion between parent/carer, student and school. In order to support your child's decision, there will be a series of presentations to watch via Microsoft Teams about each option subject with the opportunity to ask their class teacher or Head of Department questions via email, before the choices are made. Details of the presentations are:

Mon 1st February – Head of Year Assembly – Miss Snape: – To introduce and explain options choices

Tues 2nd February – Computer Science / Food / Design Technology

Wed 3rd February – History / Geography / Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Thurs 4th February – Art / Photography

Fri 5th February – Music / Drama

Tues 9th February – Separate Science / Sports Studies

Wed 10th February – Health and Social / Business Studies

On **Thursday 11th February** the school will invite parents/carers and students to watch a presentation by the Assistant Headteacher, Mr Munro and the head of Year 9, Miss Snape explaining the options process in more detail. You will receive an email on **Thursday 11th Feb** at 4pm with a link to access when the presentation goes live.

The purpose of the presentation will be to explain how the options process works; information and support on choosing the correct options; information about the examination process and grading system; and the support and guidance the school can offer parents/carers and students in preparing students for their final GCSEs in Year 11.

If you have any questions or queries before the 11th February, please email homestudy@msj.bolton.sch.uk and we can then address these during the presentation. The deadline for submitting any questions is **Thursday 4th February 2021**.

Furthermore, on **Friday 12th February**, your child should receive an options booklet and a link to an Option Choices e-form through Microsoft Teams. Please can this online form be submitted by **Friday 26th February 2021**.

Many subjects such as English Language, English Literature, mathematics, Religious Education and science will remain compulsory. All students will study at least nine qualifications all of which are rigorous courses at GCSE or equivalent level following the revised grades 9-1 curriculum.

Please note that in rare instances students may not get their first option choice. If, for example, not enough students choose a subject, then it may be withdrawn. Additionally, some subjects may be oversubscribed; if this happens your child will be informed. I shall make every effort to ensure that your child makes a wise choice and ensure they study their desired subject.

If I can be of any further assistance at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me at: snapec@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

C. Snape

Miss C. Snape
Head of Year 9

Choosing your options

Now is the time for you to choose the optional subjects you wish to study for the next two years. Choosing could involve lots of decisions:

- Shall I take this subject or that?
- What combination of subjects and what levels will be best for me?

So far you have been learning the basics in many subjects. Now you will be able to study some subjects in more depth. Choosing will give you a chance to concentrate on subjects which you are good at.

Frequently Asked Questions	Answers
Why isn't there a completely free choice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Curriculum means there are some compulsory core subjects. • These include English, maths, Religious Education and science.
Why are there not more choices?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "It is beneficial to do better in 9 qualifications than do worse in 10". • To ensure students have the best opportunity to succeed at the highest level in each subject we give them the maximum amount of time.
Factors to consider when choosing your Options	
Are you good at a subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability in a subject is a solid foundation upon which to base future studies especially to examination level.
Do you like the subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoyment and interest in a subject are a big help when studying. • However, do consider why you like a subject. Is it because you like the teacher? If

	so it may well be that the same teacher will not be taking you in Years 10 and 11.
Do you know the demands of the subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out about the subject before you choose. • Does the subject require a project or controlled assessment?
Are you willing to work hard both in class and at home?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is vital for all GCSE subjects if you are to be successful.
Is it wise to choose a subject because a friend has chosen it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not advised.