

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Office Documents/Events Guide/Options Evening/2021

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany

1st February 2021

Dear parent and carer

Year 8 Options

As you will be aware, in September your child will enter Year 9 and the subjects they choose now will probably be the ones studied to examination level. These choices should reflect the abilities, interests and needs of each student. This is the first set of options that your child will have, with further options being chosen in year 9.

During Year 7 and 8 your child has gained opportunity to sample all the courses available. Selecting a subject now allows the student to dedicate more time to study the subject in greater depth. Many subjects such as English, mathematics, Religious Education and science will remain compulsory and will be studied by all students. The options available in year 8 will be in three subject areas, these are;

- Humanities Option; **Geography or History**
- Creative Arts Option; **Art, Drama or Music**
- Computing & Technology Options: **Computer Science, Food Technology or Design Technology**

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 with Mr Sanders: To introduce and explain options choices

Tues 2nd February – Art, Drama and Music

Wed 3rd February – Computer Science, Food Technology and Design Technology

Thurs 4th February – Geography and History

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**.

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 If, for example, not enough students choose a subject, then it will be withdrawn.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 on sandersd@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

D. Sanders

Mr D. Sanders
Head of Year 8

Choosing your options

Now is the time for you to choose the optional subjects you wish to study for probably the next three 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.