

# Mount St. Joseph

*"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"*

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



8th February 2024

Dear parent and carer

## Re: 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 reflect the abilities, interest, aspirations and needs of each student. Following feedback from students and parents we have made some changes to the options process and the key stage 4 curriculum.

The selection of option subjects should be made through discussion between parent and carer, student and school. In order to support your child's decision, they will attend a series of assemblies delivered by the Head of department of each subject. This series of presentations will be available to watch via our website or via the school Twitter page. The presentations will be found at Year 9 options, following the options evening. During Personal Development Time in the mornings, there will be opportunities to ask their teacher questions about options and the process before the choices are made.

To provide you with further information about the options process, we would like invite parents and carers to attend an options evening with their child, on **Thursday 14th March from 4.30pm until 6.30pm**. On the evening there will be presentations by myself and the head of Year 9, Miss Dale explaining the options process in more detail. You will also have the opportunity to discuss option subjects and their suitability for your child with the teaching staff.

The purpose of the evening 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 and carers and students in preparing students for their final GCSEs in Year 11.

If you have any questions or queries before the 14th March, please email [henshaws@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:henshaws@msj.bolton.sch.uk) and we can then address these during the presentation. The deadline for submitting any questions is Tuesday 12th March 2024.

Furthermore, on Friday 15th March, you will receive an options booklet and a link to an Option Choices e-form through the SIMs parent App. This online form must be submitted by Wednesday 27th March 2024.

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. We shall make every effort to ensure that your child makes a wise choice and ensure they study their desired subject.

Please also look out for other information on the options process via our school Twitter page @MSJBolton. Please also read the frequently asked questions below.

I look forward to seeing you at Options evening.

Yours faithfully

Mr S. Henshaw

Deputy Headteacher