



To all parents of pupils in the 3rd Form:

January 2020

Dear Parents,

GCSE Options 2020

As I am sure you are aware, during the course of this term all Third Form pupils will need to decide which subjects they are going to take for GCSE in the Fourth and Fifth Form. This is an exciting time when pupils have the opportunity to make some choices regarding their courses. It is not a completely free choice of subjects, however, in that we provide and expect pupils to pursue a balanced curriculum. This is essential in retaining breadth of education and options when it comes to the narrower choices made for A Level. Full details of the choices to be made, and of the courses on offer, are contained in the booklet "Fourth Form GCSE Options 2020" which your daughter/son has been issued with.

All pupils will take English, English Literature, Mathematics and a further 6 subjects to GCSE. Included within these 6 will be a balanced course in Science. Pupils will need to decide whether to take the three Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs) or Double Award Science (2 GCSEs). Each of these options involves the study of elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and your attention is drawn to the advice given in the booklet relating to the implications of this decision for the study of Sciences at A-level. Depending on the Science option chosen, pupils will then choose three or four other GCSE subjects from the following list:

Humanities

Geography

History

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Foreign Languages

French

Spanish

Creative Subjects

Art

Computer Science

DT (Engineering) or DT Product Design

Drama

Food and Nutrition

Music

The subjects chosen must include at least one foreign language and at least one humanity subject.

Pupils must take time, during this term, to discuss their possible options with their tutors, their subject teachers and, of course, yourselves. They will be required to submit their choices no later than **Friday 7th February**, after which the subject blocks will be created, based on the choices made. The Options Choices form is attached which can be returned to me via tutors.

You are invited to be accompanied by your son/daughter to the **Third Form Parents' Evening** on **Wednesday 22nd January**. This begins at 7pm for discussions with subject teachers in the Castle State Rooms. This is the main opportunity for the fine tuning of decisions with teaching staff and attendance of all parents and pupils is strongly recommended.

Please take the opportunity to study the options booklet carefully, and encourage your son/daughter to give careful thought to this matter over the coming weeks. If you have any queries, please do contact your son/daughter's tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C.J.A. Bates