



MDU

7 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers (& Students)

Key Stage 4 Options Information

The time is fast approaching when we ask students in Year 9 to choose their optional subjects to study during Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4). We look forward to being able to guide you through this process which will, for many students, be the first major life choice they will make.

The curriculum followed at Key Stage 4 consists of a core of subjects which all students must study as a national expectation. These are English, mathematics, science, religious education (Religion, Philosophy & Ethics), physical education and life skills (PSHCE and Relationships & Sex Education). In addition, students choose **three** subjects from a list of options.

To help the students in this decision-making, we have produced an information booklet which your child will be receiving from their tutor. We have also produced a series of short movies, each giving details of the option choices, and showing examples of student work. These resources will also be available on the school website under <https://tgs.starmat.uk/parents/parent-information-evenings/key-stage-4-options-information/> Please encourage your child to spend some time reading through this information, so they are clear about the options open to them and fully understand the nature of each course.

GCSE remains the traditional route through Key Stage 4, but other qualifications equal in rigour and recognition are also available. These include Cambridge Nationals, Technical Awards and BTECs. On the website you will find a short movie which explains these various qualifications, and it is vital that you and your child(ren) understand the nature of these courses before making their selection.

Once choices have been made, your child will be expected to complete the online options form, no later than 11th February 2022. In the meantime please do begin talking to your son/daughter about their choices and if you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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