

13 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

This has been an unusual year due to the pandemic. Students learning has been disrupted as a result of the National lockdowns. We have put remote learning in place to ensure that students do not fall behind with the learning. This is however, an important year where students in year 8 will be choosing their options for GCSEs. We want to ensure that despite the disruption that this process will still take place as smoothly as possible so as to prepare students for the next stage of their learning journey.

In the coming weeks students in Year 8 at Heron Hall Academy will be choosing their options for their GCSE or vocational courses which they will then follow for the next three years. Having a three-year Key Stage 4 gives us more time to work with your child towards achieving their full potential and the grades that will improve their life chances when they leave Heron Hall.

These options will therefore represent an important milestone in your child's education. Whilst it will not be compulsory students will be encouraged to choose two EBacc subjects. Most students will be encouraged to choose two EBacc subjects (History, Geography, Computer Science or a Language) in order to enhance their options going forwards whilst providing a broad and balanced curriculum with a whole range of other subjects on offer. We understand that not all students make progress at the same rate and starting Key Stage 4 in Year 9 gives us scope to further tailor the curriculum to the needs of each student.

In order to ensure that the options process is a success we will be offering students with a great deal of support to help them in making these important decisions:

- Your child will already have had an online tutorial session and assembly, where the process was explained and the importance of thinking about careers was discussed with them.
- Websites such as those below can be accessed for further information as well.
- <https://www.firstcareers.co.uk/>
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/secondary-students-and-parents/career-choices.html>



- Your child will be provided with an Options Booklet (via the post) that provides important information about the options process, including key dates, details about all of the available courses and advice on what to consider when choosing courses.
- Each department has produced a video explaining the careers that are linked to that particular subject. This can be accessed on the website and will help students to make choices.
- Finally we have an Options Evening on Thursday 21st January 5.00pm – 6.30pm. At this event there will be a drop in session with HOD for any questions, the main presentation from Mr Burrows regarding the option process will take place at 5.30pm. After this meeting SLT will be available via zoom to answer any further questions you may have. Guidance on how to complete the 'Option form' will be provided on the evening on the 21st January 2021. We aim to complete an online form this year and details will be sent home via email regarding a link for this.

We are sure that all of this support will provide the information you need to help your child to make the right decisions about their future.

We look forward to seeing you on Options Evening.

Yours sincerely,



Arthur Barzey

Headteacher

