



**HERMITAGE  
ACADEMY**

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Dear Year 9 Parents and Carers,

It goes without saying how incredibly important Year 9 is for the students here at the Academy. It's a time when our young people really begin to think about what options they have in life beyond that of their secondary school and what choices they may have to make now to better prepare them for this next step.

Options choices for Key Stage 4 are an important decision that both parent and child should make together. And, as a school, we endeavour to support you both in this so that you can make the very best informed decision for your child's future.

We have therefore decided to change the date of the Y9 Options Evening until later in March to ensure that students spend a little longer on their Key Stage 3 courses before making this important decision. It also means that parents will have the benefit of attending the **Y9 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 13th March 2024 (3.30-6pm)** prior to the Options Evening so that they can find out how their child is doing and whether or not a course may be suitable for them (full details of Parents' Evening will be shared very soon). It is worth saying at this early stage that not all KS4 courses are available to all students; this is dependent on many things. However, all of this will be explained in more detail at the Y9 Options Evening.

#### **Y9 Options Evening**

We welcome parents, along with their child, to the **Y9 Options Evening on Wednesday 27th March (4.30-6pm)**. There will be a talk in the main hall for parents that begins at 4.30pm and an additional one at 5pm. There will also be an opportunity for parents to speak directly with Heads of Department about their KS4 courses. You can discuss what the course entails and learn more about the expectations for learning for your child should they take this course at KS4.

After this event, we intend to run 'Options Assemblies' for Y9 where they can also speak with Heads of Department before they make their final choices. This is a new measure that we are introducing this academic year to better support students in their decision.

Parents will also this year have the option to sign their Y9 child up for a personal Careers appointment with one of our Careers advisors. To sign your child up, please look out for a text from the school with the details of how to do this.

We look forward to seeing parents at the Y9 Parents Evening on 13th March and will be in touch again about the Options Evening later next month.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lindsay Maughan  
**Head of School**