

November 2016

Dear Year 9 Parent /Carer,

Key Stage 4 Pathways Process for Year 9 students

From this week, subject teachers will begin to talk to students about the courses and subjects available to students in Years 10 and 11 (Ecclesfield's KS4 'Specialise' curriculum). We are aware that on occasion parents receive only a partial picture about what is happening in school and so wanted to provide you with some information with regards to the process. Each year the Key Stage 4 Pathways process is slightly different and therefore students should not expect the programme to be exactly the same as the one experienced by an older sibling or friend in previous years.

Before the end of this term, students will also be asked to complete a series of short questionnaires to kick start their thoughts and opinions about the subjects they might like to take in Years 10 and 11. They will complete a 'mock opt' in which they experience the process of selecting their preferred subjects from a list of those available. **It is made very clear to students that they are not making any definitive decisions and that they are allowed to change their minds completely between the mock opt in December and the final submission of option choices which takes place in February 2017.**

Similarly, the mock option form may show subjects that will not be offered in the final options process. During the mock opt, students will be asked to indicate subjects that they will 'probably' choose and others that they 'might' choose. Conducting this process is beneficial for us as a school as it allows us to 'take the temperature' of the likely final options and make due preparations. It also allows us to identify students who are likely to struggle to make the right choices and intervene early.

Thereafter, the Key Stage 4 guidance process will run to the following timetable:

- **PSHCE lessons from November 2016:** Work on the KS4 Pathway process and routes through 14-19 education. All Yr 9 students complete questionnaires and a 'mock opt'.
- **November – January 2017:** 'Taster' lessons will take place during lesson time and course information will be provided giving students a flavour of subjects in KS4.
- All year 9 students will meet with a member of the school's Senior Leadership team to discuss their KS4 Pathway **from Friday 27th January onwards.**
- **Thursday 2nd February 2017: Year 9 Parents' and KS4 Pathways Evening 4:30pm - 7:30pm.** An essential evening for parents and students to ask questions and find out more about the different options subjects. Appointments will need to be made with teachers of Ebacc subjects (Maths, English, Science, History, Geography and MFL) in order to discuss your child's progress. Each student will have their own Key Stage 4 Guidance booklet which will provide vital information about the pathways process. During the course of the evening, there will be a 20 minute presentation in Lady Mabel Hall which will be repeated throughout the evening.
- **17th February 2017:** Deadline for submission of Yr 9 students' KS4 Pathway forms.

Thank you for your continued support. Further information will be posted on the 'Curriculum' tab of the School's website www.ecclesfield-school.com – simply select 'KS4 Pathways'. Please feel free to contact me on cevens@eccoschool.com if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C Evans
Deputy Headteacher