

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear families,

**RE: Year 9 GCSE Curriculum Choices**

In this upcoming half term, pupils in Year 9 will prepare to select their curriculum choices for their GCSEs. It is important we work together so that pupils select the right courses to prepare them for their future. This letter contains everything that you will need to support your child, please take the time to read the information.

**Compulsory subjects**

At KS4, all pupils will study the core subjects of English Literature and Language, Maths and Science. They will also study GCSE RE to support their understanding of how philosophy, religion and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that support further studies in multiple subject areas.

**GCSE choices**

Pupils will then have **three** subject choices to help support a broad and balanced programme of study. We have made some small changes to the way that the choices are grouped this year, which will provide pupils with a wider range of choice and allow them to access the EBacc (English Baccalaureate). For more information on the subject choices process and the EBacc please see the FAQs attached here:

<https://www.leytonstoneschool.org/page/?title=Year+9+Curriculum+Choices&pid=153&action=saved>

**Support**

Pupils have been hearing from subject specialists in a dedicated assembly every Wednesday morning. They will also spend time in form exploring different career options and discussing potential suitable careers that link to their GCSE choices.

Videos that detail each of the GCSE options, and a digital curriculum booklet, are now available on our website so that families can learn more about each subject we offer and discuss together the courses they might like to study. The link to the page can be found here:

<https://www.leytonstoneschool.org/page/?title=Year+9+Curriculum+Choices&pid=153&action=saved>

**Important dates**

On **Thursday 23rd January**, all Year 9 students will learn remotely for the day and then be invited in for a 1-to-1 interview with a member of staff to discuss their curriculum choices and potential career paths, before they make their selection. Your child will receive an appointment time for their interview from their form tutor.

You will also have an opportunity to ask members of staff questions about option choices and your child's progress at the Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening on **Thursday 30th January**.

The window will open to all Year 9 pupils to make their choices on **Thursday 6th February** and will close on **Monday 24th February**.

We ask that you spend some time over the next few weeks exploring the different options together as a family, and discuss the courses your child may wish to study in their final 2 years with us.

If you have any further questions around the schools options process moving forward please use the following email address: [options@leytonstoneschool.org](mailto:options@leytonstoneschool.org).

Yours faithfully,

Kate Kenward  
Assistant Headteacher