

24th January 2024

Dear Parents/carers

Thank you for supporting your child in completing their GCSE Initial preferences form. We have been very impressed with the maturity shown by year 9 students in gathering information about subjects and thoughtfully choosing the three they most want to study for GCSE. Over 90% of the year group completed the form in time and so we have been able to create option blocks that will allow for almost all the combinations chosen. The process worked so well we have decided to use the same method for gathering final choices.

The subjects have been divided into three 'blocks' based on the initial preferences submitted. These blocks allow the timetable to be set up. Students must pick one subject from each block.

Block A subjects	Block B subjects	Block C subjects
3D Design Art and Design Business Fashion and Textile Design German Graphic Design History Mandarin	Business Computer Science Geography History Hospitality and Catering PE Psychology	Art and Design Business Drama French Geography Health and Social Care History IT Music Spanish

As you can see, some very popular subjects are in more than one block. Other subjects are only in one block because the number of students who wanted to take those subjects was less than 30 each. If choices change too much from initial preferences and subjects are then oversubscribed, we will talk to the individuals affected. There is no advantage to completing the form before the deadline, we do not want students to make a rushed decision. If the deadline is missed however,

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Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AW

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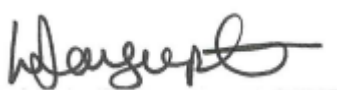
your child risks being unable to choose a subject that has been filled by others who did meet the deadline.

Students will need to complete the form themselves from their school accounts having discussed their choices with you. This is so we can link the choices to the student and avoid duplicate entries.

An email with a link to the 'FINAL options' form will be sent to students at their school email address on Monday 29th January. Students need to submit their form by **February 28th**.

Please discuss option choices with your child's subject teachers at the parents' evening on Thursday 1st February. If your child needs more general options advice or makes a mistake on their form, please contact their form tutor. If your child has any issues accessing the form, please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Lucy Dasgupta
Assistant Head – Data and Assessment

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