



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 10 Courses Information Online Presentation – 24th January 2022

In the coming weeks, Year 9 students will need to make some important decisions about the courses they wish to follow in the next phase of their education.

Whilst some subjects remain compulsory in Years 10 and 11, students do have the opportunity to express a preference for subjects that they wish to study at Key Stage 4. At King Edward VI School we offer a wide range of courses, leading to a range of qualifications. We endeavour to ensure that as many students as possible can access their chosen courses. However, we do have to operate within the restrictions of a timetable which provides all year groups with a range of opportunities and suitable facilities, so students may need to be flexible.

The curriculum offers many possibilities for students to study the courses for which they show preference but there are compulsory elements to the courses studied. A modern foreign language, as it always has been at King Edward VI School, is compulsory for most students alongside Religious Studies; the majority of students will take a full GCSE in both of these subjects. The Combined Science course (equivalent to two GCSEs) provides a balance across the three sciences and will be provided to students alongside a slightly increased number of lessons for core subjects. Students who have demonstrated both capacity and consistent effort at Key Stage 3 across all core subjects will follow an accelerated pathway which includes a modern foreign language and separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

As an introduction for students, staff will be providing information in lessons during the week beginning 7th February on courses offered in Key Stage 4. Please encourage your son/daughter to ask questions throughout the process to help them make informed decisions. Once the timetable is planned for the following academic year and groups are full, further changes to the subjects are only possible in very exceptional circumstances. Changes will not be possible in September. Students will also have individual discussions with their tutors to ensure that they fully understand the choices on offer and that their decisions are well considered.

In order to provide parents with information to help support and advise their son/daughter, there will be an options presentation available on the school website. Those that may have been through the process with older siblings may appreciate this has been a live presentation in the past but in light of the current circumstances this will be pre-recorded. The presentation will answer many questions about Key Stage 4 subjects, the options process and the school's provision of careers guidance. This is a very important time for Year 9 students and I would encourage as many parents as possible to view the presentation.

Following the release of the presentation on the 24th January we will do a live question and answer session on Microsoft teams. This will be at 6pm on the 25th January and will provide an opportunity to answer any questions you might have about the process or other information shared in the presentation. Please click this link to access the Q&A session: [Year 9 Options Q & A](#)

Year 9 reports will be issued in the week beginning 14th February. If you have specific questions regarding the report, the process or specific subject based questions then please use the contact email below and your emails will be directed to the appropriate members of staff to get back to you.

The Key Stage 4 courses information will be on the School website from the 24th January (*a link to the school website is below and there will be a link to the presentation from the home page*). Here you will find the Courses information presentation and all the details that students and parents will need to make decisions. Alongside information explaining the pathways open to students there will also be presentations from departments providing further information about the courses on offer. At the bottom of the web page will be a booklet version of the information if you wish to print it off or find this version more accessible. If you require a paper copy then please can you contact Mrs Musson either by email kmusson@keslichfield.org.uk or by sending in a letter with your son or daughter and she will pass on a paper booklet to your child.

<http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/>

The options form is completed online and details of how to access this and details of your son/daughters pathway will be sent out via a letter and text at the beginning of February. There will also be a link to the options form on the school website. This form will only be accessible via password which will go out at the same time as the details of the pathway. If once you have received this information, you have any questions further questions then please use the contact email above.

The Key Stage 4 courses information presentation was shared with students in school on the 13/14th January. It is recommended that students access the website and the information provided in their own time as well.

Summary of key dates

Key Stage 4 courses information presentation live from	24 th January
Individual options discussions with form tutors	17 th January - 28 th January
Options weeks (in lessons)	7 th February - 19 th February
Year 9 reports issued	Week beginning 14 th February
Deadline for return of option preference forms	Monday 7 th March

We hope that you find the information shared on the school website useful.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P. Cotton
Assistant Headteacher