

19 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Options

At The Kings of Wessex Academy students choose their options prior to entry in Year 9, which we know from experience gives our young people the very best opportunity for success. What this means is your son/daughter will need to make some important choices about the subjects they would like to study.

In our initial communications to you, we indicated that the Options Evening would be held on Wednesday 1 February 2023. As you will be aware, we have recently been informed of the intention for some teaching Unions to strike on that day. To avoid any disruption to the options process, we have taken the decision to move the evening to **Tuesday 31 January 2023**. Please be aware the original date is still in the booklet as these have already been distributed. I apologise for any confusion this may cause.

Details of all the courses and options, together with what you will need to do, are set out in the booklet. Students are more likely to succeed when they are following courses they have actively chosen to pursue in subjects they are passionate about. With this in mind, we trust our students to make important decisions over their curriculum. Alongside the core curriculum, students have a choice of two option box A subjects and select their remaining two courses from an extensive list, option box B.

Year 8 options gives us scope to tailor the curriculum to the needs of each student. It is important to realise there are different types of courses available. Students can make their choices from a wide range of academic courses or choose vocational courses that offer a different style of learning. There is also a learning support option available that allows students to take fewer examined courses and, instead, have additional time and support towards their GCSE English and Mathematics.

Our face-to-face Options Evening on **Tuesday 31 January 2023** is intended to help guide you through this process. There will be two presentations on the evening at 5.00pm and 6.00pm followed by the opportunity to meet with teaching staff where a more detailed discussion regarding subjects can take place. Students with surnames A to H are invited to attend the presentation in the main hall at 5.00pm and students with surnames I to Z at 6.00pm. We will also share the presentation after the evening with all parents and carers.

Please take some time to read the booklet together with your child. The booklet is available online [here](#). Students have each received their own copy during assemblies in their Middle Schools and from Tutors. Our team of staff here at Kings will also be pleased to help you with any questions you have.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Kings and to working with you over the coming years.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Hopwood
Deputy Headteacher