



CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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Dear Parent/ Carer,

During Year 9 your son/daughter will be making some important decisions about their Key Stage 4 option subjects. We have a very comprehensive options programme in place which gives your son/ daughter a wide range of information, advice and guidance about subject choices and different pathways. I have enclosed our options "Calendar of Events" which highlights the key systems in place to allow your son/ daughter to make the right choices that are best suited to their needs.



Year 9 GCSE Information Evening

I would like to invite you to our Year 9 GCSE Information Evening on **Wednesday 20th September at 5.15pm** in the main hall. All pupils in Year 9 have started GCSE courses in **MFL, Geography and History** and this is a valuable opportunity for you to find out key information about these qualifications, including the new GCSE grading structure. All other GCSE courses will either start in September 2018 when your son/daughter is in Year 10 or for core subjects (English, Mathematics, Science and RE) after Easter in Year 9.



All pupils can choose either or both GCSE History or GCSE Geography and select a Modern Foreign Language as an option when they reach Year 10 and this will be explained in greater detail during the Year 9 Options Evening in February 2018.



Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum and Setting

All pupils study core examined subjects in English, Mathematics, Science, RE and Humanities (History or Geography) in Years 10 and 11. Pupils are set specifically according to each individual subject identified above. Therefore assessments undertaken at the end of Year 9 are extremely important in dictating which set they will be allocated in Year 10. All pupils will choose either History or Geography (or both) and, to support this process, pupils in Year 9 have been set separately for Humanities. They continue to be set in Core (English, RE), Maths/Science and Languages for the remainder of Year 9.



In Key Stage 4, pupils will also study 3 option subjects, which can be selected from a wide range of GCSEs and BTECs. Our courses at Key Stage 4 recognise that there are many different routes through the education system and we aim to provide as wide a variety as possible. These will be clearly explained at the Year 9 Options Evening on **Thursday 22nd February 2018** and in the Year 9 options booklet which will be given out on **Friday 9th February 2018**.



In addition to these examined subjects, pupils will take part in Physical Education and Guidance which includes lessons in Careers, Citizenship, Preparation for Work, Financial Awareness and Enterprise.

Changes to GCSE and BTEC Qualifications

Since September 2015 the Government has introduced brand new GCSEs in most subjects with specific changes made to the content and structure, including a new grading scale that uses numbers 1-9 to identify levels of performance (with 9 being the top level). There is more information available about these new GCSEs in our options booklet and on our website. BTEC and vocational qualifications have also undergone more rigorous assessment procedures and will no longer be 100% coursework based. Approximately 25% of the courses will be externally assessed.

It is crucial that your son/daughter does not miss vital information about the options process and excellent attendance will ensure that they will be fully equipped to make the right choices.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to meeting you on 20th September in the main hall.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Oliver
Assistant Headteacher