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9 March 2021

Dear Parents

### **Key Stage 4 Choices Information and Year 9 Parents' Evening**

I am pleased to be able to write to you with a few important pieces of information and updates about your child's key stage 4 subject choices.

The transition from key stage 3 to key stage 4 marks a significant point in every child's education. Up to the end of July all students will continue to benefit from the full, broad and balanced education of key stage 3, providing them with a sound knowledge base for the future. The key stage 4 subject choices are the first opportunity that students have to start to individualise their education and focus towards a future beyond school. Clearly, students and parents will need guidance and support through this process, this letter outlines sources of support and important dates to note. I am hoping that you have accessed the information already available on our website, including the timeline for the choices programme and the introductory video. If you haven't please use this link <https://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk/options>.

Over the last 2 weeks during form time, students have watched video assemblies about each of our post 14 subject choices to help guide their decisions. An equally important part of this process is, of course, understanding post 16 futures, so next week, students will have sessions on sixth form, college and apprenticeships etc. If you or your child would like further post 16 careers guidance please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Careers Lead, Ms Fairweather at [s.fairweather@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:s.fairweather@smithdonhigh.org.uk) so that an appointment can be arranged.

We know how important it is that parents and guardians are involved in this process, therefore, we will be holding our Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 18 March from 4pm to 7pm. Given the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in this year, this will be less of an academic review and more of an opportunity for you to talk to your child's subject teachers about their engagement in the subject and how well suited they might be to take subjects on as a post 14 choice. The evening will be online and appointments can be booked through our Parents' Evening system (instructions for setting this up are attached to this letter). Appointments will be 5 minutes long, as these are online, they will cut off after 5 minutes and allow you 1 minute before your next appointment.

If you are unable to use the online appointment facility and require a telephone call instead please email [data@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:data@smithdonhigh.org.uk).

Finally, I would like to make you aware of a Question and Answer session that will be held via a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 24 March (details on how to join will be sent nearer the time), where you are welcome to ask any remaining questions you may have ahead of the online subject choices opening.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's tutor if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs S Robinson**  
**Assistant Headteacher**  
**Key Stage 3 Lead**

