

Parent(s) / Carer(s) of all Year 9 Students
Vandyke Upper School

28 January 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Year 9 Options

The Key Stage 4 Options Choices booklet contains lots of information about the different courses available. The curriculum offer changes from year to year and can vary significantly from school to school. At Vandyke, it is our aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for students that will provide opportunities to gain the qualifications they will need and to benefit from a range of experiences that will equip them for their next steps. Our focus is strongly on English, mathematics and science and all students also study history or geography (or can choose to study both) and courses in physical education and life skills (including health education, sex education, careers and religious education). They can then select from a range of courses in different areas of experience including foreign languages, the arts and technology. Cuts to the budget are restricting some choices unfortunately. For example, we have protected the provision of three foreign languages, but we will not be running a GCSE Drama course next year.

The government has just published the school performance tables from last Summer's GCSE and A Level exams. Vandyke students' outcomes were outstanding, with students from all starting points making very strong progress. We will continue to ensure that students benefit from outstanding teaching on challenging courses, so that they continue to enjoy their experience at GCSE and achieve outstanding outcomes that prepare them well for life after Year 11.

Yours sincerely



Tim Carroll
Headteacher



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