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Headteacher: Chris Eccles

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Oakwood High School we begin our GCSEs in Year 9. This allows pupils the opportunity to study a greater number of options in depth and help prepare them for their GCSE exams. This half term we will be launching our options process for your Y8 children. Your child will be provided with lots of information over the coming weeks to support them in their choices, this information will also be shared with you so please discuss the available options with them.

During your child's P.S.C.H.E. lessons we will be helping them to make their preliminary choices using information from Go4Schools and informed by their future plans. Pupils will be using Xello, a career development service that will help them to identify which subjects will be most useful in the future.

From the **6th to the 17th of March**, subject teachers will be dropping into P.S.C.H.E. lessons to talk through any subjects that pupils may not have studied before.

On the **17th March** pupils will receive an options assembly to officially launch the process and talk them through the options available to them. Assessment reports will go home on **22nd March** so that you can discuss your child's results so far and which subjects might best suit them

From the **17th to the 31st of March** pupils will receive a one to one interview in their P.S.C.H.E. lesson to help them to choose the most suitable subjects for them and the ones where they can be the most successful. The responses will not be collated until after all of them have been received so please do not be concerned if some pupils submit their forms before others.

Parents and carers will be able to discuss possible options with individual subject teachers by making appointments for the subject parents evening on the **23rd March** or via email or phone call.

Your child's Head of House and Personal Learning Tutor will also support and guide your child to help her/him make the most appropriate choices about what they will study next year and through to Year 11.

A member of the Inspire Trust



Registered in England: 08775996

The deadline for the submission of the options forms or any changes is the **31st March**.

You will be able to access the information about the option subjects in the 2023 options booklet as well as on the curriculum area of our website. It is worth mentioning that not all subjects that our pupils currently study will be available in the options. This may be due to a number of reasons but we endeavor to offer as wide a variety of subjects each year as we possibly can.

<https://www.oakwood.ac/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/03/options-booklet-2023-small-1.pdf>

<https://www.oakwood.ac/curriculum/>

All pupils will study a foundation of Core subjects that will enable them to fulfill national requirements and allow for a positive transition into further education:

**English** (2 GCSEs – English Language and English Literature)

**Maths** (1 GCSE)

**Science** (2 GCSEs – Combined Science)

P.S.C.H.E. and Core P.E.

In addition to these subjects, your child can choose 4 more subjects. The list of all subjects available is below and described in the options booklet. The qualifications offered will be stated with the name of the subject. Pupils can choose any combination of subjects and qualifications they wish but it **must include at least one of the following**:

**Triple Science** (in addition to Combined Science this make 3 GCSEs in Science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

**Computer Science**

**French**

**Spanish**

**Geography**

**History**

When considering future further education choices your child may also wish to pursue the English Baccalaureate. If this is the case s/he would need to choose at least one language (French or Spanish) and one Humanities subject (Geography or History) to go with the Core subjects.

As previously explained, your child will be asked to choose 4 options subjects, one from each block. This is a free choice although we strongly believe that due to the make-up and nature of some of the courses that certain subjects may fit better than others. Where this is the case and you are concerned with the guidance your child has received please contact us to discuss this and we will find a combination that works for every child.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Design Technology (GCSE)	Art and Design (GCSE)	Child Development and Care (NCFE)	Art and Design (GCSE)
Drama (GCSE)	Computer Science (GCSE)	Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)	Child Development and Care (NCFE)
History (GCSE)	Drama (GCSE)	Geography (GCSE)	Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)
Religious Studies (GCSE)	Geography (GCSE)	Health and Social Care (BTEC)	Health and Social Care (BTEC)
Spanish (GCSE)	Graphics (GCSE)	History (GCSE)	Sports Studies (NCFE)
Triple Science (GCSE)	Spanish (GCSE)	Music (GCSE)	Textiles (GCSE)
Business Studies	Textiles (GCSE)	Triple Science (GCSE)	Business Studies
	French (GCSE)	Engineering (Application only, 1 class)	Religious Studies (GCSE)

Pupils cannot choose more than one from **Art, Textiles and Graphics** as these are all Art qualifications.

**Business Studies** is a new qualification we are hoping to offer this year so the nature of the qualification is yet to be confirmed. It is also important to note that we will only be able to offer one class in each of the blocks it is offered in.

This year we are, unfortunately, only able to offer one class of **Engineering** so we are asking pupils to submit an application if they wish to study this subject. Applications can be given to me for collating.

**Learning Support** will also be offered to some pupils. Learning Support is not a qualification, instead it is two lessons that support your child's core curriculum. After discussion with you pupils will be invited to join this option if we feel it will be of benefit to them.

In addition to one subject from each block we also ask pupils to choose a reserve subject. We will try our hardest to make sure that every child gets their first choices however due to limited staff and classrooms this isn't always possible.

If you have any concerns once the process is underway please do not hesitate to contact me at [m.owen@oakwood.ac](mailto:m.owen@oakwood.ac).

Yours sincerely

Maxine Owen  
Assistant Headteacher