

16 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Year 9 Options Process**

We are approaching an important time in your child's secondary education here at Dixons Broadgreen Academy. Planning for the options process is underway and we are aiming for all year 9 students to have selected their options before the start of the spring term in January, to start in Y10. Making the right decisions and choices is of vital importance and we will endeavour to ensure that you and your child are well informed about the process and the choices on offer.

As a Dixons academy, our curriculum is aligned to a common set of Trust-wide principles which are underpinned by our mission to challenge educational and social disadvantage in the North. We believe all students are entitled to an ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum which will open doors and maximise life chances. As a result, we have refined our options process from previous years to allow all students the opportunity to study the full EBacc. The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc consists of:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- Science
- Humanities – Geography or History
- MFL – French or Spanish

Our GCSE offer is broad and balanced with a strong core in the EBacc. By focussing on the EBacc, Dixons academies have transformed lives and opened up opportunities by delivering an academically rigorous curriculum resulting in higher-end grades in high-value qualifications. This is what students at Broadgreen deserve and that is the rationale for our change to option choices this year.

The option process is outlined below in six stages:

#### **Stage 1 – Expression of interest**

Year 9 students will complete an expression of interest form on Microsoft Forms. The information from this data will assist us in determining the courses we will provide.

#### **Stage 2 – Option presentations**

During the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> November options presentations will be delivered during Morning Meeting time. This will involve video presentations being shared with students on the different courses we have to offer. This will be particularly useful to find out about subjects that they have not studied at KS3. A copy of the Options Booklet will also be available for students from this date and will support the information in the videos. Students will be able to take the Options Booklet home so that you can discuss the range of courses on offer with your child. Options presentations will also be made available on our website, should students wish to revisit them.

#### **Stage 3 - Options Evening**

We will be hosting Options Evening for you and your child to attend on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 5pm-7pm. During this evening you will get the opportunity to find out more about our KS4 curriculum and rationale behind the curriculum offer, as well as viewing the videos on the different courses on offer. You will also be able to ask questions to subject leads and other staff at Broadgreen.

5pm – 5.30pm Main Hall

Options presentation, including welcome and introduction by the Principal

5.30pm – 6.15pm Dining Room

Refreshments and an opportunity to talk to leaders regarding courses on offer



6.15pm – 6.45pm Main Hall

Second opportunity to attend the Options presentation, including welcome and introduction by the Principal

**Stage 4 – Completion of options form**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the day after the Options Evening, your child will receive an email with a link to select their options using a Microsoft Forms. There will be question for confirming that you agree with your child's choices to reduce any issues later in the process. The form must be completed promptly and the deadline for submission of this form will be 9am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. This deadline must be adhered to so that stage 5 is not delayed.

**Stage 5 – Options meetings**

During the week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, your child will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss the options chosen. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that students are fully aware of the demands of the courses selected and that they are appropriate and challenging.

**Stage 6 – Final confirmation of options**

Before the end of term, before we break up for Christmas, you and your child should receive final confirmation of the subjects that will be studied from Y10 onwards. Curriculum leaders will also be informed of the students studying their subject.

There is a lot of information in this letter so please do take some time to look through it with your son or daughter. Information will be posted on our website (<https://www.dixonsba.com/>) so please check this periodically to keep up to date with the process. If you have any questions, please email school using the enquires email address and put Year 9 Options as the subject of your email.

Kind regards,



Miss Jones

