

14 January 2020

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Dear Parents/Carers

As I am sure you are aware, we are approaching our KS4 Options Process for our current Y9 Students. This is the first opportunity that students have to consider the curriculum that they will continue to study for the next two years of their education. This is such an important process, as these decisions will start to shape their future in terms of their further education into Sixth Form and beyond, as well as employment and career paths. At Helsby High School we strive to ensure that all our students follow a broad and balanced curriculum that will enable them to succeed, and allow them to gain the appropriate academic currency for the next stage in their education or employment. With that in mind, our KS4 Options Process is a guided process, to ensure that students and their parents can make informed decisions that are appropriate for them.

The KS4 Options Process will commence on **Wednesday 29th January 2020**. Students will take part in an extended assembly and form period whereby this process will be explained to them in detail. Students will be provided with information regarding our curriculum rationale, option pathways and subject courses as outlined in our KS4 Options Booklet. They will be able to take this information home to share with yourselves to begin the discussions around what subjects they would like to continue studying. On that same date we invite all parent/carers to our **KS4 Options Evening, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm**, where this information and the options process will be explained to enable you to support your son/daughter through this process. Students are expected to attend, as this event also provides an opportunity for them to visit different departments and discuss the courses that are on offer, to assist with their decision making.

During the KS4 Options Evening there will be a presentation at 5:45pm, repeated again at 6:30pm, whereby the rationale for the curriculum and the pathways will be explained, as well as the process for completing your son/daughter's Options Form. Some students will have a clear idea as to what subjects they wish to study, whilst for others this can be quite a daunting task. This event will provide an opportunity for students and their parents/carers to ask questions and find support to assist them in making this important decision regarding their future. To that end we very much look forward to seeing you and your son/daughter at this event.

Yours sincerely



Dr A Pritchard-Roberts
Assistant Headteacher