

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is an exciting time for Year 9 students at John Spence. We are embarking on our Key Stage 4 Option process where students need to consider their preferred GCSE subject choices. We hope to provide you and your child with the support needed to make informed decisions.

So far in your child's schooling, study has largely been determined by the National Curriculum. As we prepare now for KS4, there are still some aspects of the curriculum which are pre-determined. Students are expected to study GCSEs in English, Maths and Science and either Geography or History. Some students may wish to gain the EBacc qualification and for this they will need to study either French or Spanish. Even so, there are still some genuine choices to be made.

At John Spence we offer a range of courses; one of our aims is to tailor the curriculum to meet individual needs and interests, whilst supporting every student to achieve the highest standards possible for them. Your child has been given an options booklet for you to read together to find out more about the different courses we run and help you to guide their option choices. If you have not received this booklet, please contact the school office on 0191 296 1432.

To this end, students have already had the opportunity to:

- Take part in a wide variety of career based workshops and events
- Consider possible career paths and completed a career cloud
- Complete an Options Passport
- Attend a number of assemblies from subject leaders and assemblies on growing job opportunities in the region

After half term each student will have an options meeting with a senior school leader to discuss options and a recommendation as to appropriate option choices will be provided. Outcomes of this discussion will be shared with parents and carers via a letter that you will receive when you attend options evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Options Information Evening Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 5.00pm-7.00pm**

This is a very important evening for parents and students to attend, to find out more about the courses the school offers and to meet with subject staff to discuss your child's progress and how ready each student is to face the demands of the GCSE's.

There will be an option information presentation at 5pm, we strongly advise you attend. Please note that places are limited on some of the courses and also that some courses may not run if there are insufficient numbers. Students need to submit their completed options form to their form tutor in registration on **Friday 6th March**.

I look forward to seeing you on the evening 3<sup>rd</sup> March and working together to support your child on their GCSE journey.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Clay  
Assistant Headteacher