



**Wath Academy**

Dear Parent/Carer

Since the beginning of January, Y9 students have been working hard in Life Skills lessons so that they can make an informed choice regarding their Key Stage 4 options. In the final two weeks of this half term, students will receive their last Options Life Skills lesson when they will explore in detail all the subjects on offer at Key Stage 4. **At the end of their Life Skills lesson, the students will be asked to fill in a Microsoft form to indicate their option choices.** All students will make three choices and two reserve choices. The options selected on the form will remain visible through Microsoft forms, should you want to check the selection your child made.

We strongly encourage parents to spend time with their child discussing the potential subjects they could study next year.

Below are a few points to take into consideration when choosing KS4 subjects:

### **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)**

The Government recommends that students should study the following subjects: History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language, as well as the core of Science, Maths and English. Students who want to achieve the EBacc must choose Spanish and a humanity subject (History or Geography). This is the most academic route.

### **Applied Courses**

Applied subjects are vocational subjects such as BTECs. These subjects require students to complete a series of assessments throughout the course. The applied subjects promote a particular set of skills appreciated by post-16 and higher education providers. Wath Academy students are extremely successful in all vocational subjects on offer and we recommend that most students pick at least one applied subject.

### **Highly Academic subjects**

The following subjects are considered to be academically challenging and require students to have demonstrated a strong ability in Maths and Science. When students select Psychology, Sociology or Computer Science, a conversation with a member of the Academy will take place to discuss suitability.

### **Separate Sciences**

This provides the broadest coverage of the main three science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and is commonly referred to as 'Triple Science'. Certain students will be

recommended by their science teacher to follow this course which demands high ability in Science.

Whilst we will make every effort to offer your child their first three chosen subjects, it is important to note that, in some instances, we may use a “reserve choice”. Decisions will be based on numbers of students opting for subjects and viable class sizes will inform this decision. Upon allocation of subjects, an opportunity to discuss this further will be offered for all students. A confirmation letter with the final choices will be sent home before Easter.

As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr I Grayel  
**Assistant Vice Principal**