



Colton Hills Community School

Confidence. Happiness. Courage. Success.

Headteacher
Mrs A Stephens

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Dear parent/guardian

I am writing to you about our **Year 9 Options process**, which is taking place this half-term, and which is one of the most crucial parts of your child's journey through secondary school.

During this half-term, the students will be choosing the options that they will follow throughout Year 10 and Year 11, leading to qualifications with which they will leave school. These qualifications are critical to the future success, career prospects and life chances of our young people, so the choices that they make in the next few weeks could not be more important.

We are delighted that students will be returning to us on **Monday 8th March**, as it means that they will be able to have conversations in school with those members of staff who can best support them with the choices that they will make. After the interrupted school year that our students have had, advice and guidance from teachers and form tutors is more vital than ever in ensuring the right choices are made.

Further details will be coming to you over the next few weeks, leading to the firm options choices being made prior to us breaking up for Easter on **Thursday 1st April**. I wanted, however, to give you a brief outline of the activities taking place:

- Friday 26th February** – Options launch and letters
- Tuesday 2nd/Thursday 4th March** – Parents' Evenings appointments with form tutors
- Monday 8th March** – Return to school and options booklets given out
- Monday 15th March** – Curriculum Leader advice sessions
- Monday 22nd March** – Options interviews (if necessary)
- Monday 29th March** – Options choices completed on official form

Though many of these events will happen within school, you will play a crucial role in supporting the right choices, and a great way to begin this is to start to have conversations at home about options. Questions that might start this conversation could include:

- What would your child like to do as a future career?
- What would they like to study further, at sixth form, college or university?
- What subjects are they currently enjoying that they want to pursue further?
- What subjects would they not want to continue to study that they have experienced before?

To help you with this conversation, we have created an options mini-site on our website, in which we go through some of the key parts of the options process. I have created a short video briefing which answers some of the main questions that parents and guardians often have about the process. I urge you to watch this message, which can be found here: www.coltonhills.co.uk/yr9options.

Finally, I would like to offer my personal support to you and your child throughout the options process. These young people have been so challenged by the events of the past year that I am determined to ensure that the remainder of their school career at Colton Hills is enjoyable, meaningful and successful. If there is anything that I can do to help you and your family with this process, then please contact me directly at sblower@coltonhills.co.uk, or by calling school directly.

I wish you every success with that I am sure will be a successful options process, and best wishes to your family at this time.

Mr S Blower
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum