



3 October 2016

Dear Parent /Carer

## KS4 Options 2017-18

I am writing to all parents/carers of pupils in Year 9 to keep you informed of our on-going work as an 11-16 school and our plans for the option selection process for your children.

Alongside secondary schools across the country, we are currently adapting to the new GCSE system introduced by the Government. Current Year 11 pupils are being taught the new GCSE curriculum in English and maths only, current Year 10 pupils will be taught the new curriculum in most subjects and current Year 9 pupils will, subject to accreditation, be taught the new curriculum in all subjects. Consequently, all GCSE grades for current Year 9 pupils will be numerical rather than alphabetical. As mentioned, this process is being undertaken by all secondary schools in the country.

To date, we have offered a very broad and balanced GCSE curriculum to pupils, as we believe that this is in their best interests. This supports academic achievement, as well as our ethos that pupils should be taught to 'learn to live life to the full.' For this reason, we are going to run our options process, for current Year 9 pupils, after the Christmas break. This is in line with most of the rest of the country, as it means that the Government will have accredited all courses at this point in time. In the previous two academic years, we have allowed pupils to select options during the autumn term and have then had to work with parents/carers and pupils to change options, as some courses have not been accredited and pupils have changed minds due to the early selection of options.

As we are now an all-through school, there is no need to apply for a place in Year 10 in September 2017. All current Year 9 pupils have a guaranteed place at Brockington College for Year 10 and Year 11 and we are proud to say that 95% of the previous two year groups have stayed with us to complete their GCSEs and we are expecting this to be the same for the current Year 9 pupils.

However, we are aware that some parents/carers may not be aware of the curriculum changes that have taken place or will have specific knowledge of our GCSE curriculum. Consequently, we would like to invite parents/carers only to a short presentation about our Key Stage 4 curriculum, with the aim of explaining the national picture and the curriculum that we will be offering to pupils. This Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening will take place on Tuesday 11 October from 6.00 pm -7.00 pm.

As we move closer to the selection of options, pupils will receive information about curriculum choices through a series of assemblies and presentations towards the end of this term. Rest assured that following our evening in October and after the Year 9 Consultation Evening on Wednesday 7 December, as well as the Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 11 January 2017, you and your child will be able to have meaningful conversations about their future and their option choices.



If you would like to attend the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening, please return the reply slip below by Friday 7 October so that we can organise seating. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 11 October, however, if you have any questions prior to this date, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely



Clare Darby  
Vice Principal

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***Return To: Miss Darby, via School Reception by Friday 7 October***

**Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening Tuesday 11 October 2016**

I / We\* will / will not\* be attending the Parents' Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for the Evening

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Parent/Carer of: ..... Tutor Group: .....

*\*Please delete as appropriate*