



CHAILEY SCHOOL

A Specialist Language and Humanities College

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Key MA (Ed)

12th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Key Stage 4 Options

I have just finished presenting an assembly to Year 9 students to begin the discussions about Key Stage 4 Options and I am writing to make you aware of some changes to our Key Stage 4 curriculum that will affect your child. It is important to note the following:-

- All GCSEs have now been reformed and the new qualifications are harder, the pass standard is higher and in many cases the content has increased
- Grades in all GCSEs have changed from A*-G to 9-1. A grade 4 will be the same standard as a C grade but the Government is using a grade 5 as the new 'good GCSE pass'. A grade 7 will be equivalent to an A grade.
- English and maths GCSE passes have become even more important as students will be required to repeat them at college if they don't pass with a grade 4, or for some colleges and level 3 courses, a grade 5.
- The Government measures school performance on 8 qualifications from a designated range. There has been much more emphasis placed on students studying a broad and balanced curriculum, a language and either Geography or History to GCSE level.

At Chailey School the Key Stage 4 curriculum is made up of the Core Curriculum and the Options. The Core Curriculum is subjects that are statutory for all students in all state schools. The Options are the additional subjects students wish to study. Making choices within the Options will be done in collaboration with the school and parents. At Chailey School we believe in a broad and balanced curriculum. We wish to ensure that students get a degree of choice in the subjects they study and so we have made the decision to retain as much time for options as possible.

The Core Curriculum

These are the subjects that the government states all students have to study until the age of 16. At Chailey School our Core Curriculum looks like this:

Subject	English	Maths	Science	PE
Number of lessons per week	5 lessons	5 lessons	6 lessons	2 lessons
Qualifications	2 GCSEs	1 GCSE	2 or 3 GCSEs	No qualification

In addition students will learn Personal and Social Education, Beliefs and Ethics and Core British Values through a tutor and assembly programme and with specific days allocated to these curriculum areas.





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Information about Science

There are two route ways through science. For the students we believe have the most aptitude we will offer 'Triple Science'. This will consist of GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All other students will study 'Combined Science' which will give them two GCSEs. Please note that the school will make the decision about the route way during the late Spring this year. Part of the decision will be based on an aptitude test that will be taken in the next few weeks. Rest assured that top grades in Combined Science are a good foundation for A Levels in science subjects. It is better to get two higher grades than compromise top grades by studying Triple Science.

The Options

These are the subjects students chose to study. At the end of Year 8 students made their language options. This will continue into Year 10 and 11. If a student opted for an additional second language this will continue as a twilight class. Students have three options one of which must be a humanity subject and two from the free choices.

Subject	Language Option	Humanities Option A	Free Choice Option B	Free Choice Option C
3 lessons per week	French, German or Spanish	Geography, History or Beliefs and Ethics 3 lessons	Art and Design, Beliefs and Ethics, Business Studies, Computer Science, Dance, Design Technology, Drama, Food Technology, GCSE PE, Geography, History, Information Technology, Music	
Qualifications	1 GCSE	1 GCSE	1 GCSE	1 GCSE

For a small number of students who will find 9 or 10 GCSEs too challenging, we will be offering a personalised programme instead of a GCSE option subject. If we think this will benefit your child, we will be in touch with you to make an appointment to come in to school.

Students will get more information about the range of GCSE Options on offer over the next few weeks and we are looking forward to discussing Key Stage 4 with you at our **Options Evening at 6.00pm on Thursday 1st February.**

As well as a presentation on the curriculum and the rationale behind it, you will have the opportunity to find out about all the GCSE Options from subject teachers and a selection of Key Stage 4 students.

Please note there is also a **Tutor/Parent evening on Thursday 25th January from 4.30-7.30pm** where you can arrange a 5 minute appointment to meet with your son's/daughter's Form Tutor. Appointments with Mr Harris, KS3 Director or Mrs Hutchinson, Student Support Manager are also available on request from lhutchingson@chaileyschool.org.

Kind regards

Louise Poole
Assistant Headteacher

