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February 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 Guided Choices process: Information for parents

We have reached the point in your child's journey through Gordano where we are starting to prepare Year 8s for their Guided Choices. This process supports students (and parents) by informing them about their curriculum from Year 9 onwards; the start of Key Stage 4. The process will also support them with the choices that they do have with regards to subjects to continue or start from Year 9.

Students will have a Guided Choices assembly and subject taster sessions, in the week beginning the **4th of March**.

There will be a Guided Choices Information evening on Thursday 14th March, 4.00-7.30pm. On that evening there will be a guidance talk explaining the Key Stage 4 curriculum and process for making choices as well as subject stands providing specific course information. **Booking for this event will open on Friday 9th February** (details will be sent home).

On **Friday 15th March** a letter explaining how students go about making choices through Applica will be sent to you; choices can be made from this date with the deadline being **Thursday 28th March** (last day of Term 4)

General guidance

Much of the Key Stage 4 curriculum (Years 9-11) is already set for students in terms of the subjects they will pursue to GCSE (or equivalent). This can sometimes be a surprise and even frustration to students and parents, who may desire a greater degree of flexibility. The reasons for our curriculum structure will be fully explained during the Guided Choices information evening on Thursday 14th March, but essentially, our aim is to ensure all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, equipping them with knowledge, skills, attitudes, dispositions and ultimately choices to pursue any Post 16 pathway they wish. To that end, the vast majority of students will follow the curriculum outlined below:

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Core Key Stage 4 Curriculum*
English Literature and Language
Maths
Science (Combined or triple Science, the latter starting in Year 10)
History or Geography
French or Spanish
A Creative subject (from the suite of Creative Arts and Design and Technology Subjects)
A free choice

*For a very small number of students, a more bespoke pathway may be more suitable, as determined by SEND needs. This will be discussed on an individual basis with the Student Support team / Director of Key Stage

Creative Subjects
Creative Arts:
GCSEs in Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Photography
DT:
GCSEs in Design and Technology (Product Design or Graphic Design), Food Preparation and Nutrition, Textiles.
Cambridge National: Creative I-Media
PE:
Physical Education

Full list of optional GCSEs available (students may choose an additional Humanities, Language, Creative Arts or DT subject in addition to their core requirements)
History, Geography, Religious Studies (RS is a Twilight option)
French, Spanish
Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Photography
Design and Technology (Product or Graphic Design), Food Preparation and Nutrition, Textiles, Computing
Business Studies, Psychology
PE
Full list of vocational qualifications available (up to GCSE equivalent of Level 2)
BTECs: Health and Social Care, Travel and Tourism, Uniformed Services, Construction (These two subjects are for small groups following a more bespoke curriculum pathway based on additional needs. Construction is Level 1 only)
Cambridge Nationals: Creative I-Media, Sports Science

We know that there will be lots of questions from students and from you as we move through this process. We encourage students to speak with their subject teachers and/or to tutors, Heads of House and relevant senior leaders. If you have any further queries at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact us: guidedchoices@gordanoschool.org.uk

If you would like more information about subjects at this stage, you can find last year's Guided Choices booklet here [Gordano School - Guided Choices](#) (this will be updated for this year's cohort).

Please do also see the Curriculum section of our website
<https://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/our-school/curriculum>

We are looking forward to supporting students as they prepare for this next exciting phase of their education.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Tipler
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Curriculum and Standards

Adam Snow
Assistant Headteacher
Director of key Stage 3

Adam Dickinson
Assistant Headteacher
Director of Year 9