



Icknield Community College

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Dear Student

Key Stage 4 is an important part of your education and it is essential that you take time to think carefully about your next two years at Icknield. This is the first time in your schooling that you will have some choice over the subjects that you study and there are some important factors to take into consideration. Whilst you will choose a number of 'option' subjects, you will still follow a 'core' of compulsory subjects. You will all continue to study English Language, Maths and Science GCSEs; most of you will also study English Literature and Additional Science GCSEs. Additionally, you will all continue to study Religious Education in Year 10 and you will continue to take part in four hours of Physical Education each fortnight.

The subjects you choose for your options should do two things. Firstly, they should give you as broad and balanced a platform as possible to maximise your choices when you leave us. Secondly, they should allow you to achieve the best success that you are able; with this in mind, it is worth thinking about the subjects that you enjoy, that you are interested in and that you have been successful in during Key Stage 3.

There are, too, some specific considerations. There is a new award called the English Baccalaureate that the current government is very keen to pursue. Whilst it is not compulsory, there is the suggestion that some universities would look favourably on a student who had achieved their English Baccalaureate. If you are interested in this route, you should make sure you choose History or Geography and French from the option columns.

When we asked you in December what you might like to do in Key Stage 4, some of you said you were interested in a more vocational course. For some of you, we agree that this could be an option that suits your learning style and your parents will have received a letter advising that we would support your choice of a vocational course. For others, we think it would be most helpful for you to study slightly fewer GCSEs and to have additional support that allows you to do as well as possible in them and you will have received a letter recommending the Foundation course.

Over the next week you will have the opportunity to study your Options Booklet with your parents and to attend the Options Evening on Wednesday 1 February. Mr Perry has arranged for subject heads to visit your assemblies over the last few weeks and you will have further opportunity, now, to ask more questions.

Your completed option choice form must be returned to the Resource Centre by the end of Monday, 6 February.

The final thing to say is that we are in a period of considerable change, nationally, in terms of the ways subjects are examined and qualifications recognised. The information you have is correct at time of going to print, but the government is expected to make more announcements about the curriculum in the next few days. Rest assured that we will monitor these developments and provide any additional guidance that may become necessary.

I look forward to seeing you at the Options Evening.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Trinder
Assistant Headteacher

