



15th December 2021

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Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Key Stage 4 Options Pathways – Thursday 24th February 2022 6pm-7.30pm

In February your child will make their first important decisions on their future subjects of study. The Year 9 Options Evening will run on Thursday 24th February. The evening begins with a short presentation explaining the Options process. You will then have the opportunity to go to Attimore Hall and speak to all the departments in more details about the subjects available.

We would encourage you and your child's attendance at this evening so that you have the best information about the options process and the subjects that your son/daughter will be taking at Key Stage 4.

On Wednesday 2nd February your child will receive an options booklet and a link to the online options form to be completed by Friday 4th March.

Please make a note of the key dates for your diary:

Wednesday 2nd February 2022	Pupils will be given booklet with information about each course and a link to the online booking form
Thursday 24th February 2022	Options Evening
Tuesday 1st March 2022	Pupil and Parent Interview with SLT/DOL
Friday 4th March 2022	Deadline for completing options form

We would particularly like to provide you with further information about the "English Baccalaureate" or EBacc curriculum in this letter which is a suite of qualifications that provide a strong academic pathway and are promoted by the government as an ideal grounding for further academic study.

Your child would certainly benefit from selecting to follow an Ebacc curriculum. To do this your child would need to select a modern foreign language (French) and a humanities subject (Geography or History) as two of their three options choices. Some reasons to consider the EBacc route are listed below:

- A broad and challenging curriculum that supports progression to level 3 study (6th form)
- A strong CV that will support a broad range of careers in the future
- A range of skills that are highly prized by Universities and Employers
- A range of skills that will support and compliment good progress in other subjects (English, Maths and Science)

We are an inclusive school and provide access to the EBacc curriculum for all students, as well as a broad range of other challenging subjects that are not part of the EBacc measure. We do not insist on all students following the EBacc route but we do strongly recommend this route and hope you will take time to discuss the EBacc curriculum with your child and speak with subject teachers to help make an informed decision.

You can also discuss options with Form Tutors, Subject Leaders, Director of Learning or myself via email Sarah.Merrigan@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Merrigan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

Mrs S Merrigan
Associate Assistant Headteacher