

The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

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Year 9 – Choices 2020

A new curriculum for a new decade!

Dear Parents and Students

I am delighted to introduce a new curriculum into Y9 and one which will prepare you for your GCSE choices in Y10 and 11.

We have designed a new curriculum to ensure that you are making a real informed decision about your GCSE's when you opt for these in 2021 (this time next year).

This year you will have some choices to make, however these will provide you with a taste of new subjects and develop your knowledge of ones you have studied before. This will be a foundation year developing knowledge, skills and understanding ready for when you start your GCSEs in Y10.

As you can imagine there are some subjects that you will have to take and these are **English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, PSE (Personal Social Education) and PE.**

You will also all over the course of the year work on projects in an enrichment block. These will deepen your knowledge in **Art, Music, Drama, Computing, Design Technology, Food and RE**, you will study each for half a term but work towards bigger themes within them.

You will also have to make **three choices** you wish to study, these can be any three from the following list, we will where possible allocate you these but we will also ask you for a reserve in case your combination is not possible so think carefully. The subjects on offer are:

Art, Drama, Music, Performing Arts, PE, Spanish, French, Business Studies, Computing, Food, Resistant Materials, Textiles and Engineering and Religious Studies.

Some of these are new subjects and some are building up knowledge in more familiar ones.

These subjects are also on offer in Y10 when you choose your GCSEs but in Y9 these are foundation courses to build skills and knowledge as well as an understanding of what those subjects might be like, so while most will want to continue some of their choices we will ask you again next year what your final GCSE choices are.

We as a school are really excited to offer this new curriculum and believe that this foundation year, where students have some choice as well as some innovative project work, will enable them to make better decisions and achieve better results when they choose their GCSEs next year. This is also a unique curriculum to Colfox giving you a broad range of subjects to study. Why have we moved away from you



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picking your GCSEs in Y9? The answer is simple, we want you to have as much choice as possible so this allows you to study new subjects for a year before you decide the ones you actually want to take at GCSE. You might well think that this means you are wasting a year but the courses are designed to link and build knowledge, and part of how we learn is through different experiences, in fact you will find this a refreshing year, you have studied the subjects we have decided for the last two years now you can actually have some choice about what you want to study. The three projects you will be working on next year will help you to make connections between subjects and how you can link the learning to a final goal which is another skill at GCSE.

I hope that the information in this letter gives you an understanding of how next year will work but don't worry we have an evening event on 5 February 2020 to give you more information and give out a booklet with more subject information in.

This is a fantastic opportunity to try something new.

Yours sincerely



Adam Shelley
Headteacher