



GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL

Specialist Music College

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Patron: Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM



music colleges

Farnham Road
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8th February 2008

Dear Parents,

We are now fast approaching the time when your son/daughter will begin planning their curriculum for Key Stage 4. We hope that you will be able to find the time to support your child through this process with us here at school.

The procedure started back in December when all Year 9 students began working with their tutors as part of their Careers Education Guidance programme. They are currently being introduced to the Careers Library and to Sue Moore, who is employed by Connexions within school to offer advice to students as they decide on which subjects to study in Years 10 and 11. Two booklets have been issued to support their decision making

Accompanying this letter is a booklet written for our Year 9 students and their parents and carers which I hope you will find useful. The booklet explains choices available to students now, and it offers information for learning choices which they will face later in their education, training and careers.

During the last two weeks I have been talking to all students in their assemblies to ensure that they fully understand the Options process, including the statutory requirements for subjects which they have to study at Key Stage 4.

I have also explained the Alternative Curriculum which we believe is the right way forward in our response to a more flexible curriculum and a step towards a more personalised route for nominated students

Year 9 reports are being issued on 13th February. The comments written by subject staff will refer to a student's progress at this time in all subject areas, and give some indication as to whether s/he might benefit from further study in a particular area.

The Options Booklet describes in detail the courses on offer. The booklet is addressed to students, and asks and answers for each subject the following questions:-

- What is the subject about?
- What will I be taught?
- How will I learn?
- What skills will I learn?
- How and when will I be assessed?

We hope that the booklet will guide your son/daughter in making their choice of subjects.

On March 6th students and their parents are invited to attend a Parents' Evening where subject staff will be available to discuss progress for English Maths and Science and other subject staff will provide information on the various Option subjects.

We ask that at the end of this process you complete the mauve Options form and return it to me via the Tutor, stating your son's/daughter's preferences, by 10th March at the latest.

Following an analysis of these preferences, students will receive confirmation of the availability of their subject preferences, and of their sets in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science for next year.

Yours sincerely

Diane Marchant
Deputy Headteacher