

5 January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 9 GCSE Options Information Evening, Thursday 18 January 2018

At Longsands Academy, we recognise the importance of the decisions that students need to make in their transition from Year 9 into Key Stage 4. In this important and challenging phase of students' education, it is crucial that we give you clear and informed guidance as to the choices available and how these are matched to individual needs, interests and abilities.

This morning, Year 9 students received advice, guidance and support through a dedicated Options assembly. This afternoon, students have received their Options Booklet (an electronic copy can be downloaded from the Academy website). As part of the GCSE options process, we are also holding an Options Information Evening on Thursday 18 January (5.30 pm-7.15 pm). The evening is an opportunity for students and parents/carers to find out more about the GCSE courses available and how students can select subjects. There will also be an opportunity to discuss any additional queries you may have with our student support teams.

Due to the large number of students in Year 9, the evening will be split into two sessions as seating will be limited:

- the first will commence at 5.30 pm in the Ritchie Hall and will be followed by the opportunity to speak to Heads of Departments about individual subject choices. This will be for all students in **Aspen** and students from NTD and MDP in **Willow**
- the second session will follow the same format but will commence at 6.15 pm in the Ritchie Hall. This will be for all students in **Maple** and students from CB and CMC in **Willow**

Other key dates that you should be aware of include a 'Meet the Professionals Event' during lessons on 17 and 18 January, where students will have an opportunity to explore different Career possibilities. The Year 9 Parent Consultations take place the following week on Wednesday 24 January, which will afford you the opportunity to speak to your son/daughter's class teachers. This will also help to guide student choices. Options interviews will take place from 19 February. Following this, the deadline for returning options forms is Wednesday 7 March 2018.

Should you have any queries about the Year 9 Options Information Evening, or this year's Options process, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Breakspear
Senior Assistant Headteacher (KS3)



Mr N Owen
Senior Assistant Headteacher (KS4)