



April 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School Year 9 GCSE Options Process. You have already been a part of introductory assemblies and the Try Before You Buy Taster weeks. We are now at the stage where there are important decisions to be made about the next stage of your educational journey before you begin Key Stage 4. The options booklet, along with the accompanying videos and letters, will guide you through your choices. Please take the time to read and watch all the material we send out to ensure that you are well informed to make your option choices as the next two school years are very important.

We are undertaking the next stage of the Options journey during unprecedented times when we would normally be able to offer you in-person support and guidance. Instead, as a result of the global crisis caused by COVID-19, we are resorting to different methods of communication and support. Please do be aware that as a result of the pandemic and implications for schools, timeframes may well vary to those stipulated on the information we provide but we will be sure to communicate any changes to you. I can assure you that the process will still be thorough and we will do all we can to ensure you have all the information you need to be able to complete your choices.

All the material we send to you is designed to help you make the right choices for you and to achieve the best possible results in all your subjects by the end of Year 11. You will receive information in two parts initially. The first video and options booklet accompany this letter. I would like to stress that, although all subjects in the accompanying booklet are offered in good faith and are accurate at the time of printing, the school reserves the right to withdraw subjects in the event of unforeseen circumstances and in response to external factors in the best interests of our students. The material also provides you with an overview of the timeline for Options and information on each subject at Key Stage 4 that is available to you on the pathway that you have been allocated. We have placed you on a pathway that we feel is best suited to enable you to succeed and your pathway is **Durham**. Please watch the linked video for further information. The second video will be sent out later in the week. We have signed up to an excellent online package called Options Online through which you will make your choices and the second video will guide you through how to do this.

There are many people who will help you through this process including your parents and teachers. We will ensure that we are available during the school day on e-mail, and where needed via telephone, to answer any questions and queries that you have. Please watch the video linked to the **Durham** pathway so you know who to contact. By making the right decisions now, it will ensure that you enjoy your time in Key Stage 4 and achieve the best results you can. Your success in Year 11 will pave the way for the next steps in your education at the age of 16.

At Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School, we want you to do well, like the thousands of successful students who have gone before you. We hope that you will end Key Stage 4 feeling proud of your achievements and move on to the courses, training and careers that will enable you to realise your dreams, whatever they may be. We, as a staff body, are very much looking forward to working with you to achieve your potential.

Yours faithfully,

Miss G Raindi
(Assistant Headteacher-Quality of Education)



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