

January 2018

TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF YEAR 9 STUDENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: Progression to Key Stage 4 - Year 9 Options 2017-2018

At the Year 9 Partnership Evening in October 2017 we advised you that we would be reviewing and revising our KS4 Curriculum in line with the latest requirements for Curriculum and Qualifications change. We are pleased to say that we have designed our new curriculum in response to these changes whilst maintaining an offer which supports the potential of all students.

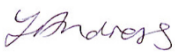
We are excited about our KS4 curriculum offer for September 2018. It builds on experience in KS3 and our ethos of high aspiration and inclusive learning; preparing all students for their future lives with a broad, challenging set of options. We have taken a measured approach to the courses on offer and students can choose from meaningful applied courses as well as those which qualify for the English Baccalaureate. The most successful students will combine the two.

To prepare your child for the decisions ahead, we offer a comprehensive information, advice and guidance programme (IAG) to all students in Year 9 and their parents/guardians. This programme is paramount to the students' eventual success and we invest a great deal of time to ensure that each and every student embarks upon courses on which he or she can be successful. We understand that options are exciting but daunting and there is a team of experts to help and guide. This team includes: subject specialists, form tutors, the Year 9 Pastoral Team, the Upper School Team and the Senior Leadership Team.

In order to keep you informed of all the events in Year 9 that are related to progression beyond KS3 we enclose, with this letter, a timetable of events for Progression. This timetable lists all the events that take place throughout the year regarding progress in Year 9 and progression to Year 10. Please keep this safe, it is important.

If you have any questions about the advice and guidance your child receives, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Y Andress
Vice Principal



Mr R Laird
Assistant Principal KS4



Mr T Mooney
Director of Achievement & Progress



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KEY STAGE 3 – 4 PROGRESSION 2017-2018

Advice and Guidance Programme

Below is a list of the advice and guidance to Year 9 students, along with key dates regarding Year 9 students' progression to KS4 education at Beal High School.

All Year 9 students will receive information about choices and progression routes during assemblies, PSHE, careers advice sessions and during guidance sessions with the Year team and members of the leadership team. This will include information on the various pathways we offer, including the traditional GCSE and BTEC routes, vocational and apprenticeship qualifications as well as the occupational qualifications we are offering from September 2018 via the Beacon Business Innovation Hub (BBIH).

Event/Advice and Guidance	Date	For who?
<p>Assemblies from Heads of Department & Leadership Team:</p> <p><i>Independent and impartial advice and information on content of Subjects/Options on offer at Beal as well as best choices for Career pathways and University.</i></p>	September 2017 – February 2018	Year 9 Students
<p>Students to work on Progress Files:</p> <p><i>Year 9 students will write a personal statement describing their skills and interests. As well as this, students should collect any evidence of good work and attendance to extra-curricular activities e.g. certificates, Year 9 Progress Report etc.</i></p> <p><i>This process provides support in writing CVs and University Personal Statements in the future. Every student will be expected to bring their Progress files to their IAG interviews with a member of Leadership team in February 2017.</i></p>	October 2017 – December 2017 During Tutor time.	Year 9 Students
<p>Progress Reports issued <i>Sent home with pupils.</i></p>	December 2017	Year 9 students and Parents
<p>Year 9 Parents' Evening <i>This will provide more detailed information about your child's progress and achievement; supporting appropriate choices for further study.</i> <i>Mr Laird (KS4 Assistant Principal) and Ms Andress (Vice Principal) will be present in the KS3 Resource centre to answer any questions that parents may have.</i></p>	Tuesday 30 th January 2018 3.30 – 6.30 pm	Year 9 students and Parents
<p>Options Information available on school website</p>	February 2018	Year 9 students and Parents
<p>KS4 Progression Team and Upper school Student Directors visit Year 9 PSHE lessons and Tutor time for Q&A sessions</p>	February/March 2018	Year 9 Students

and information on the different subjects and pathways on offer in KS4.		
Key Stage 3 – 4 Progression Evening <i>This event is an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers, and students, from core and option subjects in order to learn more about content, assessment and progression.</i> <i>The evening will include talks in the school hall by Principal Wilmot and the Key Stage 4 team at 5pm and 6.30pm.</i>	Tuesday 27 th February 2018, 4pm – 6.30pm	Parents and Students
Activation of interactive online Options Form (link available from Beal High school website) <i>Students should bring a copy of this with them to their IAG sessions along with their Progress Files.</i>	Tuesday 27 th February 2018	
Information, Advice and Guidance Sessions (IAG) <i>Ten minute sessions held during the school day.</i>	Monday 5 th March – Friday 16 th March	Year 9 students <i>(Date and time of these sessions to be advised by letter to students)</i>
Deadline for return of Options Form to form tutor ➤ <i>A completed Options form, signed by BOTH a parent and the member of School Leadership Team or Year 9 Team handed in to the Tutor by this date.</i>	Monday 19th March 2018 (After IAG)	
Timetable blocks set based on student preferences	April/May 2018	N/A
Additional Advice & Guidance meetings for students requiring further support and course changes held with Key Stage 4 Leadership team	May/June 2018	Invitation letters sent to those students concerned.

More information on these choices will be available in the Key Stage 4 Prospectus (available from February 2018).

At the Progression Evening which will be held in the Lower school, each subject will have a display stand and subject teachers will be on hand to discuss the course content and qualification with students and parents. We strongly advise all students and parents/carers to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.