



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

BEAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Our ref: BL/RD/SSS

10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9 pupils,

Progression to Key Stage 4 and KS4 Options

Students in Year 9 are fast approaching the beginning of their GCSE studies. We are excited about our KS4 curriculum offer, which supports the potential of all our students. 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 and students can choose from a wide range of courses including meaningful applied courses as well as those which qualify for the English Baccalaureate.

KS3-4 Progression Evening – Tuesday 21st January 2025

With the beginning of their GCSE studies come decisions for students to make about the options subjects they will choose to take. To support with this, the KS3-4 Progression Evening will be held in the lower school on Tuesday 21st January. All GCSE and vocational subjects will have a display stand and subject teachers will be on hand to discuss the course content and qualification with students and parents from 3.30pm until 6.00pm.

At 4:45pm there will be a talk in the KS3 school hall by Ms C. Burrard-Lucas (Assistant Principal, KS4) and Mr A. Round (HOY Year 9), outlining important information regarding the options process. We strongly advise all pupils and parents/carers to attend. However, the PowerPoint which accompanies the talk will be uploaded to our website for parents/carers who are not present.

Information, Advice and Guidance Programme (IAG) – January/February/March 2025

To prepare your child for the decisions ahead, we offer a comprehensive information, advice and guidance programme (IAG). The IAG is paramount to the students' eventual success and we invest a great deal of time in ensuring that every pupil makes appropriate GCSE options choices and embarks upon courses on which they can be successful. We understand that making option choices are exciting but daunting and there is a team of experts to help and guide.

- Pupils will be offered information, advice and guidance (IAG) by their form tutors.
- Staff in each subject will talk to pupils during lessons, explaining what is involved with that subject.
- Options information including the GCSE options handbook are available on the school website <https://bealhighschool.co.uk/ks3/>



- KS3-4 Progression Evening on Tuesday 21st January 2025 with information available about all of the GCSE/vocational courses we offer.
- Parents' Evening held on Tuesday 25th February 2025 will provide subject specific information to support students in making their GCSE options decisions. After this event the GCSE options MS Form will go live.

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

Yours sincerely



**Ms Y. Andress and
Mr W. Mackintosh
Co-Headteachers**



**Ms C. Burrard-Lucas
Assistant Principal KS4**



**Mr A. Raja
Assistant Principal KS4**



**Mr A. Round
Head of Year 9**