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**TOOT HILL
SCHOOL**

BELONGING · EXCELLENCE · OPPORTUNITY

Thursday 13th February 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

With our students fast-approaching the halfway point in year 9, the GCSE options process is now underway and students will soon have a full understanding of the options process and the choices available to them ahead of their transition to year 10. As you will appreciate, this is a very important process as the choices made now can often influence future career and progression pathways. Whilst we appreciate that many students may not know what they wish to study at this point in their school journey, we are determined to provide your child and you as parents/carers, with as many opportunities as possible to make informed choices that lead to happy and successful experiences. We are holding a number of events to support this process, which are outlined below.

Tailored careers sessions

During the options process Year 9 students will partake in a number of sessions during tutor time that focus on Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance and how different subjects can lead students along specific pathways. These sessions will enable students to develop their understanding of a range of careers as well as the skills that are required to be successful. In addition, students will develop an awareness of the different kinds of qualifications that are needed to secure the opportunities that lead to successful progression.

Year 9 GCSE Options Evening – Thursday 13th March – 4.45pm to 6.30pm

This is a very important event and we would expect all parents/carers (and students) to attend this evening. This informative evening will provide advice and guidance from subject specialists as well as specific details about our options process. Whilst a number of presentations will take place on the evening, families will have opportunity to explore subjects and discuss any questions or concerns with subject specialists. By attending the event, you will receive an advanced copy of our Options brochure and associated application forms, which will be used to apply for specific subjects.

We will be in touch with further specific information relating to this evening after the half-term break.

GCSE Taster Sessions (WC 24th March)

Specifically aimed at students who have an interest in courses they have not studied before (such as Business, Media, Citizenship, Sociology and Astronomy), an opportunity will be provided for short taster sessions which will enable students to further understand these courses in detail.

We understand that this is a very important process and we value the support of parents/carers and families as we continue to work in partnership to support our young people. To support the event prior to attending we would ask that parents and families discuss future career aspirations and current performance prior to making option choices.

Thank you in advance for your support along this process, and we look forward to welcoming you at our GCSE Options Evening on Thursday 13th March.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B. Marshall

Head of Year 9
Toot Hill School

