

13th May 2024

Dear Parent and Student,

As students' move towards Year 9 I wanted to write to remind you of the curriculum students will follow over this crucial year and inform you that the online portal for students' to express their preference for the Language or Expressive Arts element for next year is now open.

Core Curriculum – students will study:

- English, maths, science, geography, history, French/Spanish; the core Key Stage 3 curriculum will be extended and developed to provide building blocks and additional challenge for Key Stage 4.
- Ethics and Personal Development (EPD), art, design technology and PE will continue as core subjects in Year 9 and will also offer GCSE option choices when students' progress into Key Stage 4 in Year 10.
- ICT and computing courses; the same will apply as above and in addition an element of business studies GCSE will be introduced to the curriculum in Year 9.

'Mini Options' – student preference

Students are now asked to state their preference for their 'Mini Option' which allows students to start to specialise as they move to Year 9. *(Please note that no choices now will restrict choices during next year when student opt for their GCSE courses)*

Students can select from:

Dual Languages (French and Spanish) – This is an opportunity for students with an aptitude in Languages to study a second MFL separate from their existing main language. Students will receive a separate 4 hours of MFL teaching of the second language giving them more time to study before deciding if they wish to take both French and Spanish at GCSE.

Physical Education/Sport Science - These lessons will be largely theory based in a classroom, preparing the students for either of the examination courses. This covers the anatomy and physiology of the body including Muscular, Skeletal, Respiratory and Circulatory body systems. Specifically looking at how the body reacts to short term and long-term exercise. Students will also learn about and participate in fitness testing. Regular end of unit tests will help the students determine their potential future pathway into Year 10.

Music - We have designed this course to give students a true insight in to the three main areas that they would be studying across Year 10 and 11 if they decide to study GCSE Music (performing, composing and listening and analysing). We will deliver these 3 areas with a focus on Pop Music. The activities in place will demonstrate if students can access the course and is designed to make them "GCSE ready". Please note that undertaking music will also require students to access at least one tutor, lunchtime or after school enrichment music activity.

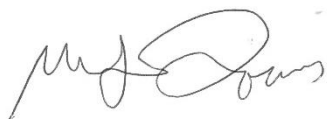
Drama - students selecting this course will be introduced to the three units that would be studied across Years 10 and 11. These include: Analysis and evaluation of a set play as an introduction to the written paper, exploring and applying dramatic techniques and devices within a devised piece of theatre, and exploration, development and performance of scripted extracts. Students will be expected to perform in front of their peers and in performance evenings showcasing their class work.

In addition to the formal curriculum offer outlined above there is a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities that students will have access to during Year 9.

Preferences can now be entered online at <https://my.highcliffe.school/forms/year9pathwaychoice.asp> or via the link under notifications which will require the student or parent MyHighcliffe login. The deadline date is Friday 31st May.

If you would like any further information or support please email office@highcliffeschool.com

Yours faithfully



Mr M Downs
Deputy Headteacher

