

# The Harefield Academy

*Achievement through Active Learning*

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Our current Year 9 students will begin their Key Stage 4 programme of study (GCSE and similar courses) from September 2021, when they enter Year 10. The transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is an important event in every child's education involving decisions regarding their curriculum and which subjects they wish to continue studying. Your Child will be making these important choices in January.

The option choice process will be outlined to parents/carers at the Year 9 Virtual Options event in January 2021 which can be found [here](#). Heads of Faculty and teachers will be showing a video of their choice of subjects and the content involved in these.

All students need to choose one subject from History, Geography, or a Language. This is a compulsory element of the GCSEs. Should any student wish to choose two or more of these subjects they are then able to do this in the option choices.

All students need to select three option subjects that they will follow; option choices should be chosen in order of preference numbered 1 – 3 with 1 being the option that they would like to do the most. **Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that all students will be able to do all three of their choices as it may not timetable effectively. All subjects will only run if we have sufficient numbers opting for the course.** We will select the option blocks once the students have chosen their subject so that we can accommodate student wishes as far as possible. As such all students need to choose two reserve choices. Please write reserve 1 and reserve 2 for the options that your child will pick if an option is not available.

The video and subject talks are all available on the website to help you to understand the curriculum pathways and the subjects that students can opt for. Please take time to read the Curriculum Course Guide enclosed and discuss your child's desired options. The guide contains explanations about GCSEs and vocational qualifications as well as specific subject requirements for Key Stage 4. Decisions regarding the option choices needs to be finalised by 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and we would ask that all forms be returned to the Academy or the google form for Option choices be completed - please follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/JM2D98UETrRmhnyaA>.

Should you require any further information in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [htimmins@theharefieldacademy.org](mailto:htimmins@theharefieldacademy.org).

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs H Timmins**  
**Deputy Headteacher**