

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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C J Pyle MA PhD Headmaster



January 2021

Dear Parents,

Year 9 Parents' Evening – Monday 25th January 2021 – 5.30 pm

This term we shall be asking your son to make his provisional choice of the optional subjects he is to take in Years 10 & 11. The Lancaster Royal Grammar School options scheme is designed to balance flexibility of choice with a broad core curriculum. Some choices have important implications for A-level study and future careers.

Information over the page provides details of the Year 10 courses which we hope to run in 2021/2022. The full Options Booklet provides information to parents and boys about their subject choices and subsequent GCSE examinations. It is available for parents on the school website via [this link](#) and boys can access it on the VLE.

Please take time to read this booklet with your son before parents' evening. Due to current lockdown restrictions pupils have now been emailed the link to an electronic Options Form which should be completed and submitted **no later than 26th January**. It is our intention that Mr Chambers, Mr Hallsworth or Mr Young will have spoken to the boys about the different options via Teams during one of their form periods.

We are also using Microsoft teams for this Parents' Evening, and we very much hope that you will be able to attend appointments online with your son.

Students have now been emailed an appointment card and told to make appointments with the relevant members of staff for you when they have their next online lessons via Teams. Each appointment lasts five minutes and it is important that your child leaves at least five minutes between the end of one appointment and the beginning of the next to allow time to end one Teams video call and begin the next one. Teachers will be available between 5.30 pm and 8.00 pm. At a teacher's discretion, some appointments may be made at an alternative time or date.

Day students will need to log onto Teams in good time before the appointments. Teachers will start each appointment as a meeting, which you will be able to click onto start the conversation as you sit with your child. Teams works on a wide variety of devices – please make sure that your sound and microphone are working, and your camera if possible.

Boarding parents can also attend on this evening or may prefer to attend the Boarders' Parents' Morning on Saturday 13th of March, COVID19 depending. The choice is yours.

Boarders have been trained in this software so if you are unfamiliar with it, the best way to find out how to use it will be to speak to your child and ask them to make an appointment for you. The teacher will then invite you to join the meeting using the e-mail address which you have registered with us. If you require us to use a different e-mail address please let Dr Rowe, Head of Boarding know as soon as possible and be aware that your email address may be visible to other parents so if you have any concerns about this please let Dr Rowe know drowe@lrqs.org.uk.

I hope that this evening will be an excellent opportunity to review the year for Year 9 students.

We look forward to meeting parents virtually on 25th January. If you are unable to come and require further information or advice, please contact the Head of Year 8 and 9 - Mr Young syoung@lrgs.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Dr C J Pyle
Headmaster

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

Your son is about to make some of the most exciting choices of his education so far, as he starts to think about which subjects he wants to take in the Years 10 and 11. The choices he makes now may well influence the rest of his academic education, and lead to opportunities later in his life. It is important that he appreciate from the start which options are available to him, and what is involved, so he can make thoughtful and informed choices.

The notes in the Options booklet are intended to be a general guide to help him select the subjects he may wish to study. He should also talk to his teachers about their subjects, and even the older pupils about the subject they chose. The school careers advisor, your son's Form Tutor and Head of Year will also be a source of valuable information and advice over the next few weeks.

The lessons he will have next year will be a mixture of compulsory and options subjects; he will take 10 GCSE in total.

All students will take the following **compulsory subjects**:

- English Language & Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Values – a subject tackling religious, moral, political, economic and social themes, as well as research and study skills.
- P.E. and games lessons



When choosing his 7 **options subjects** please remember:

- ▶ All students must choose **at least 2 science** subjects (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics)
- ▶ All students must choose **at least one modern or classical language** (French, German, Spanish, Latin or Greek), which you must have studied previously.

Students should **choose 7 subjects from the following list** (all of which will lead to a GCSE):

- Art – either Art & Design or Photography **not both**
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Studies
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- Greek
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education (P.E.)
- Physics
- Religious Studies (R.S.)
- Spanish
- Technology: Food Science