

**The Marches School**  
part of the Marches Academy Trust  
Morda Road, Oswestry  
Shropshire SY11 2AR

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**Headteacher:** Alison Pearson BSc, MA, NPQH



November 2019

**Reference: SP**

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **GCSE Options 2020**

I am pleased to share with you the key dates and arrangements for this year's options process.

Choosing subject options for Year 10 is an important but exciting decision for students. It is vital that choices are only made after the most careful consideration, and there will be a series of activities and events over the coming weeks which will support your family in making the right choices for your son/daughter.

Some subjects are, of course, compulsory and have to be taken.

Where students have the opportunity to select other courses, it is important to maintain a broad and balanced programme of study in order to keep as many opportunities open to them as possible for the future. In addition to this, understanding the pathways different choices can lead to after GCSE's can help your family to make choices that will lead to GCSE and Post 16 success.

The process this year will include:

- One to one support, each student will have the opportunity to discuss their options preference with staff in school. Where necessary, students will have an interview with a member of staff linked to the careers or curriculum team to discuss them in more detail.
- All students will be asked in the options survey to state their preferred option choices. This will be the information from which we will form our option blocks and final curriculum for Years 10 and 11.
- An opportunity to ask questions in person as a drop in session at the Year 9 Parents' Information Evening, where you will be able speak to senior members of staff about the possible choices.
- An options information event for parents which will be in the format of a presentation.



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Once complete, we will share the final options choices for your child with you, and we will then ask that you sign and return a slip. The purpose of this is to ensure that you are fully informed of the final subjects offered to your child before the exam courses begin in September 2020.

The key dates for this year's options process are as follows:

**December**

- Options Book available online
- Student Assembly explaining the options process

**January**

- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January – Parents Options Presentation
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Options Preference Survey Opens
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Final Options Preference Survey Closes

**Spring Term (First Half)**

- School based administration
- Student consultations where required

**Spring Term (Second Half)**

- Letters sent to parents confirming options choices

Yours faithfully,

Miss S Peacock  
Assistant Headteacher