

SBI/SBa

27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Student

It doesn't seem long ago that I was standing in front of you on transition day but now you are about to embark on a new stage in your education.

So far, all of the decisions about the courses you have followed have been made for you by the school. Now you have the chance to choose some of the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11. The choices you make now will influence your academic and career opportunities in the future. It is essential therefore; that you take the time to make the correct decisions having considered all of the information available to you.

When you leave Whitley Academy at the end of Year 11, you **must** enter further education or training. In most cases, your choices at GCSE are unlikely to restrict your options beyond Y11. However, if you have a particular career or further education course in mind, it is essential to find out if any particular GCSEs are required. A good example would be students who may have an interest in studying Medicine at university would be best advised to study triple sciences, as the entry requirements for this at University can be quite demanding.

To study in Whitley Post 16 you would need a minimum of 5 grade 4's including English and Maths. These are the minimum entry requirements and would only allow you to access our BTEC vocational courses. Most A levels will require you to have at least a grade 5, with some of the more difficult A level courses requiring a grade 6 or 7.

For other providers who offer BTECs, diplomas and NVQs, the grades you achieve in Year 11 will determine which level of qualification you can study. Students should expect that most providers will require 5 grade 9-4's to access level 3 courses. You also need to be aware that wherever you go, if you have not achieved at least a grade 4 in English and Maths, you will be required to retake those subjects. Your school, college or training provider will be required to make provision for you to do this.

To achieve success in any subject, it is important to understand that the work you do in the classroom IS NOT ENOUGH. You should expect to do between one and two hours of HOMEWORK each evening. This could be tasks set by your teacher, independent research, reading through notes or practising skills learned in lessons. In some subjects you will need to prepare for or complete coursework. There will be support sessions available at lunchtimes and after school to help you and you may need to attend these regularly to ensure the highest level of success. It is essential that YOU take responsibility for your own success.

Unfortunately, due to the situation we find ourselves in, we are not able to follow our normal options process. However, we have included everything we would have said in our PowerPoint presentation in the Options Booklet and we have given you some student feedback from all of the courses you have not previously covered in your curriculum. You need to start by reading this booklet very carefully and showing it to your parents/carers

too, so that they can help you in your decision-making. Discuss and fill in the “Helping you to make the right choices” sections in the booklet and take your time to consider your choices, do not rush into making a decision.

We aim to ensure that everyone gets a personalised curriculum that is ideally suited to them. In order to get a balanced curriculum, you are advised to consider the merits of choosing a range of subjects from different curriculum areas. We hope there will be something for everyone, whatever your ability, interests or future educational and career plans!

Some subjects are available for specific pathways only, or have very specific subject requirements. Some students have been assigned to Triple Science or Prince’s Trust in option 1. If you have not been assigned to one of these subjects you will choose a first and second choice in option block 1.

All students will then choose a first and second choice from option blocks 2 and 3. It is vital that the second choices are considered carefully, as there is a chance that you will be allocated at least one of them. Failing to provide a second choice in each block will not change whether a particular combination will fit and will not guarantee you a place in your first choices.

Teaching staff may also be consulted about your choices and may offer additional advice about the suitability of the course for you. Please also be aware that group sizes can be limited, particularly in practical subjects and staffing can affect availability of subjects.

Process :

- Link to Options Booklet on website on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April
- Read this through carefully with parents/carers and complete the “Helping you to make the right choices” sections
- Email the appropriate curriculum leader if you need to find out more about their course or whether it would be suitable for you
- Email the [options2020@whitleyacademy.com](mailto:options2020@whitleyacademy.com) address if you have a general query
- Complete your Options Application Form carefully, some courses are limited by numbers so will be allocated based on the most appropriate course for you.
- Email your Options Application Form to [options2020@whitleyacademy.com](mailto:options2020@whitleyacademy.com), signed by your parents/carers.
- **All forms must be in by 9 am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**
- Decisions will then be made in consultation with your teachers
- Written confirmation will be given to you regarding your choice. A discussion may be needed if your first or second choices are not available/suitable
- Check confirmation, if there are any problems, contact Miss Jones immediately using [options2020@whitleyacademy.com](mailto:options2020@whitleyacademy.com)

We all want to support you and are keen to help you make the choices that will make your next two years as enjoyable and successful as possible in the current challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Bloom  
Acting Principal