



**THE HART  
SCHOOL**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

JMH/MEL

16 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Options Evening – Thursday 6 February 2025**

We are delighted to be able to welcome families into The Hart School to meet with our staff and students to help students choose their options for Key Stage 4. This will take place on **Thursday 6 February 2025**.

There are two sessions available to pre-book. We have a large year group in Year 9 and we want to make sure that all families have the opportunity to speak to specialist staff. Families are only expected to attend one session, either:

- 1<sup>st</sup> session from 17.00 - 19.00
  - 20 minute presentation in the main hall at 17:00 followed by a visit to curriculum areas
- 2<sup>nd</sup> session from 17:40 – 19.30
  - 20 minute presentation in the main hall at 17:40 followed by a visit to curriculum areas

Please can you complete the Microsoft form linked [here](#) to confirm your attendance and let us know which session you will be attending. Please also let us know how many members of your family will be in attendance. This is likely to be an extremely busy evening so we ask that you keep the number in your group to a maximum of 3 (your child plus maximum two adults).

The evening will give students and parents the opportunity to learn about each qualification along with key messages from subject leaders, providing you with an insight into the content and assessment of your course of interest, including guidance about what skills you will develop studying this particular course and where it might lead you in the future.

### **Curriculum Offer**

The Hart School is a fully inclusive school; our aim is to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that enables accessibility for all, meeting the needs and aspirations of our students. Ensuring the combination of courses our students study provides suitable progression routes into post-16 study and beyond, is of paramount importance to us at The Hart School.

The selection of optional subjects is one of the crucial moments in any student's secondary education. All students will opt to specialise and follow a two-year GCSE/BTEC programme, starting in Year 10. The experience of studying a broad curriculum whilst the students were



in Key Stage 3 will allow staff to give specific guidance to ensure students have the aptitude for particular subjects and allow students to make a more informed choice.

The Year 10 and Year 11 curriculum combines a core of compulsory subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- PE (non-examined subject)
- PSHE (non-examined subject)
- RE (non-examined subject)

Choices are then taken from a variety of other subjects e.g. Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) and Humanities (History or Geography). There will also be the option to study Triple Science.

It is important that your child maintains a broad and balanced curriculum, so they do not limit their Post-16 choices.

### **English Baccalaureate**

When choosing subjects, students should consider the EBacc pathway. The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE level that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc is a suite of qualifications comprising:

- An English GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Either History and/or Geography GCSE
- At least two Science GCSEs
- A modern foreign language GCSE (at The Hart School, we offer Spanish)

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBACC provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in full-time education.

### **Making an informed choice**

This will be the first time students have been given the chance to select the GCSE and BTEC subjects they wish to study from Year 10 onwards, so it is important that they consider the following things:

- What course is available?
- What do they enjoy?
- What are they good at?
- What might you need for future study and careers?

A summary of each course will be in the options booklet which you will be provided with at our options evening.



Please make sure that the choices your child makes match their abilities and interests. Some courses require elements of controlled assessments whereas some are 100% examination-based courses.

Their interest must be in the subject itself, not their teacher. A poor reason for choosing a subject would be just because they like their teacher, since it is possible that a different member of staff would teach them next year. A more positive indicator would be that they are successful in the subject, can cope competently with its demands and enjoy the lessons. Unfortunately, we are not always good at the things we like and sometimes do not like the things at which we are good.

In making choices, students should listen to parents, teachers and friends, but remember: the choice and the work are there, so they need to listen to advice, think about it seriously and then choose their own examination courses.

### **Careers advice**

Some careers require students to take certain subjects. If your child has a particular career in mind, they can find out what is required by emailing our school careers advisor, Miss Rowley, for a careers appointment: [jade.rowley@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:jade.rowley@hartschool.org.uk).

Your child's teachers will know their strengths and weaknesses, how they cope under pressure and how well they are likely to perform in their controlled assessment(s) and examinations; therefore, please encourage your child to speak to their subject teachers about the different option subjects before they submit their option choices.

In the meantime, if you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me at [jude.mahon@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:jude.mahon@hartschool.org.uk).

Alternatively you can contact the Year 9 Team

[Marisa.Hibberd@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:Marisa.Hibberd@hartschool.org.uk) Head of year or [Vicki.Godridge@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:Vicki.Godridge@hartschool.org.uk)  
Student Support Officer

Yours sincerely

**Mrs J Mahon**

Vice Principal – Curriculum and Standards