



**PEMBROKE**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

### 12.3.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached an exciting point in the educational journey of our young people, when we encourage students to focus on the subjects they are passionate about; investigate new subjects with curiosity and have the courage to challenge themselves to achieve.

Throughout Key Stage 3 students studied a broad range of subjects, in line with the National Curriculum. As they move into Key Stage 4, students will begin the study of GCSE and Technical Qualifications in both compulsory and optional subjects.

"Options" are a vital set of decisions in a young person's academic life. Even though some of the curriculum at Key Stage 4 is prescribed, this is the first time that they will have had any degree of choice in which subjects they can study. When considering the information within the options booklet available electronically on the website, we encourage students to think about their next steps after GCSE. Further Education providers and employers want to see students who have good qualifications in a range of subject areas. As a consequence, considerable time and thought should be applied to choosing wisely. Mrs Doughty, Pembroke Academy's Careers Leader, will be on hand to offer help and support throughout the process.

At Priory Pembroke Academy every student has the opportunity to study a broad and balanced curriculum, including the English Baccalaureate combination of GCSEs in English, Mathematics, two GCSE Science qualifications, Modern Foreign Languages and one of the humanities subjects; either History or Geography. Students will also have a wide range of other subjects available to them. Regardless of whether they decide to pursue the EBacc route, all students will be expected to choose either History or Geography as one of their options.

The process of choosing which subjects to study has two restrictions. One of these is the National Curriculum guidelines, which attempts to ensure that students follow a balanced curriculum, consisting of a range of compulsory subjects and subject areas, as explained above. The other restriction is that of producing a school timetable. We will ask students to select courses in order of preference, including alternative 'back up' courses. We will then attempt to accommodate these choices in a curriculum structure, but we do not and, indeed, cannot guarantee that students will be given their first choices. We will, however, work with students to provide the most appropriate set of qualifications available.

Please read the information in the option booklet carefully with your young person, and take the opportunity to watch the options video put together by staff before signing and returning the options form by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The options booklet and video can be located on The Pembroke Website under curriculum, Options 2021. The video is very long so a list of timings for subjects has been made so you can fast forward and rewind to the subject you would like to view. You need to click transcript to see the timings and subjects.

Options evening will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, this will be facilitated through Teams. You can book a slot with the teachers from the subjects you are thinking about opting for and be able to meet with them to discuss it. You can also make an appointment with teachers from the options that are compulsory if you wish to discuss anything further. To book your slot please follow this link:



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<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/ThePrioryPembroke@prioryacademies.co.uk/bookings/>

1. Select a member of staff.
2. Enter your name.
3. Enter your email.
4. Enter the students' name.
5. Repeat the process for as many staff as you would like to book in with.

There is also a user guide attached to this letter.

Mrs Doughty our careers advisor is also available for appointments on that evening. Unfortunately, Mr Brewer and Miss Neal will be unavailable that night to discuss iMedia, Art and Design, Art and Textiles and Photography. However, all of the information is in the booklet and on the video. If you need any more information, please do get in touch.

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 we will give all of Year 9 students their last report from Year 8 during form time to bring home to help inform your decisions.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs K Black**  
**Head of Year 9 and 10**



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Dear Student,

We have reached an exciting point in your educational journey, when we encourage you to focus on the subjects you are passionate about; investigate new subjects with curiosity and have the courage to challenge yourself to achieve.

Over the next few weeks you will be given a variety of opportunities to consider your future; to investigate the career pathways available to you and to make one of the most important decisions of your life so far: choosing your GCSE options.

You will study for GCSEs in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature and Science, plus an additional four subjects of your choice. All students are expected to study either History or Geography. We highly recommend that you consider the study of Spanish so that you can achieve the English Baccalaureate qualification, a combination of GCSEs in English, Mathematics, 2 GCSE Science qualifications, Modern Foreign Languages and a humanities subject: either History or Geography.

Our aim is to provide you with the combination of GCSEs and Technical Qualifications that will enable you to move on to the next stage of your education or career fully equipped with the knowledge and skills to succeed. If you are unsure of your next stage; college, sixth form or apprenticeship, you can arrange an appointment with Mrs Doughty.

There are several clear guidelines to consider with your parents, carers and teachers to help you make a wise choice:

- What subjects are you passionate and curious about?
- What are you good at? Where are your strengths?
- Do you know what is involved in each subject?
- What career areas (if any) do you have in mind?
- Do the subjects you wish to study allow your career idea?
- Have you kept your options open? Is your choice balanced?

Your choices should be based upon these considerations in a logical and clear-sighted manner. It is not a good idea to choose a subject either because your friends are choosing it or because you like the teacher.

The options information booklet and video is designed to help you through the process of deciding on your Key Stage 4 option subjects, but it is best used as a discussion tool with your parents or carers and teachers. You will be thoroughly supported throughout this option process through regular contact with your Form Tutor and subject teachers. You can also make an appointment to see Mrs Doughty, your Head of Year or speak with members of the Senior Leadership Team if you need further advice.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs K Black**  
**Head of Year 9 and 10**