

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**RE: Year 9 Guided Curriculum Choices – Virtual Event – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 from 17.30**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 is a very important milestone in the journey to success at JQA. It is an opportunity for students to take control of their education and shape what your their will be. We want all of our students to achieve and succeed and become the leaders of tomorrow. The options students choose for Year 10 and 11 will affect how they spend their time at school over the next two years and provide a platform for further education and employment, so it is important that you are supported and guided, as a family, to make the choices that are right for your child.

To support you and your child to make these important decisions, we have set out a clear timeline of activities which will ensure you have the relevant information to make the important decisions. The options process will commence on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January and will be split into phases outlined below:

- Stage One:** Your child will complete a 'first look' questionnaire. This will allow your child to get a first look at which qualifications we offer and start deciding their 'Top Five' subjects.
- Stage Two:** Attending the [virtual Options Evening on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February from 17.30 via Teams](#). You will be able to ask questions of Curriculum Leaders and receive your official 'Options Booklet'. Students will also be shown a video presentation from Curriculum Leaders in an extended assembly with accompanying 'careers-focussed' session with their form tutor. Students are also invited to a 'Careers Fair' with post-16 providers on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February during period 5.
- Stage Three:** An online [Year 9 Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February](#) where you will get the opportunity to speak to their current teachers about which qualifications will be most suitable for your child to pursue.
- Stage Four:** **The deadline for submission of completed choices online will be Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February.**
- Stage Five:** One-to-one interviews to review option choices will take place the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Stage Six:** You will receive your final confirmation of your option choices by 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and begin these qualifications in September 2022.

It is important that your child chooses options that will interest and motivate them. The process outlined above will enable you to start thinking carefully together about your options and allow you to ask the Curriculum Leaders and teachers questions about what taking a qualification in their curriculum area is like.

Furthermore, the 'Options Booklet' and options videos which will be available online in the 'Guided Curriculum Choices' Teams group from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February so that you can explore together with your child further - and this will help you to make your final options choices ready to **submit online for the 15<sup>th</sup> of February deadline.**

Whilst we make every effort to give your son / daughter their first choices, we cannot always guarantee this, it is therefore important that you think carefully about all the choices you select and the qualifications you have the ambition for your child to achieve, considering their next steps carefully.

We look forward to seeing you online at the [virtual event on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 5.30pm \(details are on our website and you can click on the link here\)](#) and then again virtually via our [SchoolCloud platform](#) for the Parents' Evening the following week on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February, with timings to follow on our website and app.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss H Fashina**  
Head of Year 9