



Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Dear parents and carers of Year 9,

I hope you have all had a restful Christmas break and a positive start to the New Year. I am writing to inform you about the upcoming options process for our Year 9 students and the key dates you need to keep in mind.

Key Stage 4 Options are a significant part of secondary education as they allow students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and pave the way for their future academic and career pathways. It is an exciting time for our Year 9 students, as they have the opportunity to select the subjects they wish to pursue in the coming years.

To ensure that the options process goes smoothly and that both students and families are well-informed, we have organised a series of activities and information sessions.

The key dates for these events are as follows:

**1. Weekly assembly and advisory sessions for students**

**Date:** Every Friday

**Time:** 08.30 - 09.00

**Venue:** Advisory Room

**Details:** Students will receive a blend of weekly advisory sessions and assemblies to support them through the options process. Students will receive an options booklet that will take them through a range of activities to promote discussion, thoughts and what they might be suited for. On the 12th January, students will receive a special assembly and be made aware of the subjects that will be on offer.

**2. Options Workshops and Taster Sessions for students**

**Date:** Week beginning 19 February 2024

**Time:** 09.00 - 15.00

**Venue:** Livingstone Academy Bournemouth

**Details:** The Options Workshops and Taster Sessions are an excellent chance for our Year 9 students to interact with subject teachers, gather information about different



courses, and gain a better understanding of what each subject entails. Timetables will be adjusted to ensure that all students can experience a taster session in all options.

### **3. Initial Preference Student Response**

**Date:** 01 March 2024

**Time:** 08.30 - 09.00

**Venue:** Livingstone Academy Bournemouth

**Details:** The students will complete an initial preference form outlining their preferences and initial thoughts in response to the taster sessions. This will inform the academy of initial numbers and enable us to hold supportive discussions about their intentions.

### **4. Parent Consultations Evening**

**Date:** 07 March 2024

**Time:** 15.30 - 20.00

**Venue:** Livingstone Academy Bournemouth

**Details:** This parent consultation will be with your child's advisor who, after speaking with subject teachers, will be able to provide guidance and suggestions over the options choices your child has made, while also discussing their academic progress and attainment this year.

### **5. The Careers and Apprenticeship Show for students**

**Date:** 14 March 2024

**Time:** 13.00 - 15.00

**Venue:** BIC

**Details:** All Year 9 students will attend 'The Careers and Apprenticeship Show' at the BIC, this is an opportunity for students to learn about careers, apprenticeships, training and job routes. This is a premier south coast event hosted at the BIC and will showcase the very best that Dorset has to offer, related to careers and apprenticeships. This event allows your child to find out more about what opportunities are available.

### **6. Options Information Evening for students and parents / carers**

**Date:** 14 March 2024

**Time:** 18.00 - 20.00

**Venue:** Livingstone Academy Bournemouth



explain the process, and answer any questions you may have. Teachers of each subject will be available to discuss with you any questions you may have. This is a valuable opportunity for parents to gain insight into the various subjects and their relevance to future career pathways.

#### **7. Completion of Options Selection Window (Google Form)**

**Date:** 14 March 2024 - 21 April 2024

**Details:** From the 14 March until the 21 April, the 'Options Form' will be open and available for students to choose their options. It is crucial for both students and parents to carefully consider the available options, taking into account their interests, abilities, and long-term aspirations alongside the advice from academy staff.

Additionally, please note that we have established a dedicated team of staff members who will be available for further advice and guidance throughout the entire options process.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

We firmly believe that the options process plays a vital role in empowering our students to make informed decisions about their academic journey. Furthermore, we are committed to supporting each student in their pathway to success and facilitating their personal development.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to working together to ensure a smooth and successful options process for our Year 9 students.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Warr  
Head of Secondary