



Our Ref: DKI/JBR

15<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Year 9 Options**

I hope you have enjoyed a restful and peaceful summer, and the chance to share some quality family time with your son/daughter. Last year was extremely positive, with a significant improvement in results (in Maths 61% of students achieved a 'good' pass) and we are delighted to welcome our students to an exciting new year here at Irlam & Cadishead College.

I am delighted to inform you that our Year 9 Options Evening will take place at the College on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 between 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm. This evening will provide the opportunity to gain a greater insight into the options process, the subjects on offer, and also to discuss your child's options with their teachers.

Your son/daughter will be issued with an Options Booklet next week to discuss with you potential option choices. They will also have an assembly devoted to option choices offering more information about the options process and the subjects they will choose. The Options and Parent/Carers' Evening will then offer you the opportunity to discuss any questions you may have with the appropriate subjects.

Following the Options Evening, the completed options form should be submitted no later than Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017. You will then be informed in writing which subjects your child will be studying in Year 9. Will we try to ensure that every student is successful in each of his or her first choices, however, this may not be possible and therefore second choices will also have to be listed.

**Why Have Changes to the Curriculum Been Made?**

As I am sure you are aware from the coverage in the media, there have been significant changes in all subjects over the last few years. This has resulted in every subject requiring a higher degree of understanding, skills and knowledge to achieve a pass at GCSE. Additionally, there have been a number of reductions in the subjects which schools and colleges can now offer.

In order for your son/daughter to be successful, teachers will have to deliver more content for him/her to learn, which means subjects require more curriculum time. Additionally the majority of coursework has now been removed and the number of examination papers to take in the GCSE exam season has increased dramatically. For example Maths now has three papers, lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes, English Language has two papers and Science has six 1 hour papers. This will mean more examinations are required to be sat by students.

To ensure that our students get the best support to achieve success in the best subjects for them, we have undertaken a full review of our curriculum at all levels here at ICC, and have decided to make some important improvements to our curriculum offer.

- We will move to a 3-year Key Stage 4 - GCSE courses will now begin in Year 9
- The options curriculum will now offer three subjects, taught in 6 periods over two weeks, instead of four subjects taught in 5 periods over two weeks
- All students will complete a valid ICT qualification
- A re-organisation of the subjects offered - ensuring that students follow courses which will support their future prospects, and will remain valid and relevant

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support, and I look forward to welcoming you to Irlam & Cadishead College on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at 7.00 pm.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Kiddier,  
Assistant Principal