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Dear Parent,

As we move towards the end of term I thought I would write to brief you on matters for next term. The start of Lent term will be a revision period, with lessons in week 1 both for pupils in school and on Teams for those not. The second week is a revision week and those not in school are expected to plan their revision programme and make contact with their teachers if they need help. Those in school will follow their lesson timetable and be supervised in their revision by their teacher. Planning for GCSE revision is typically a trigger for pupils to think about what they will study when they move onto Sixth Form and I thought it would be helpful to outline the process for making those option choices.

There are three courses of study to choose from and a range of subjects within each course; A level, International Baccalaureate Diploma or BTEC Diploma. Students are to choose three subjects at A level. I am often asked if there is any merit in doing four and the answer is no. Universities are not looking for four, and not particularly impressed if someone does four – the key factor is the quality of the grades achieved so it is always risky to spread too thin across four advanced subjects as the extra workload is likely to dilute the grades. There are other opportunities to acquire further qualifications, which carry university entrance points referred to as UCAS points, that we run in the first year of the Sixth Form. These are the highly valued Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and the Higher Level English Speaking Board Certification (ESB), these and three Advanced levels are certainly going to keep A level students busy. The second route available is the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB). A global qualification which involves a selection of six subjects, three are followed at Higher level and three at Standard level. It is an excellent course for the good all-rounder as the core subjects of English, Mathematics, and one Science continue along with a choice within Humanities and the Arts. The third route is our BTEC Sport Diploma. This is equivalent to two A levels and can be done with another A level or students may opt to do the Extended Diploma which is a three A level equivalent programme. Details of each course and subject details can be found in the Sixth Form Options Booklet available online via our website

The choices are made through our online system which we will be opening end of January 2021, following completion of the GCSE mock examinations. At the same time there will be a set of videos outlining each subject posted on our YouTube channel to provide more information. These have been filmed this term and are just in completion to be ready for early January. The course is outlined by the teacher supported by students currently in the Sixth Form studying that subject and they will give an insight into why they chose that subject which I hope will assist your daughter or son in making their choices. It replicates the information you would have heard had we been able to run our usual Year 11 Information Evening this term, which due to the pandemic we could not.



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There is no action for you to take just yet, I am sharing this for information so you can see the direction of travel. If there is the desire to start discussing this over the holidays then the best starting point is our prospectus which will help students narrow down from what they don't want to do to what they are interested in doing. The link here takes you to that page [Sixth Form](#) When you land on the Sixth Form page please scroll down to the heading **Sixth Form Prospectus**.

I hope you find this overview helpful. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas.

Regards,

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