



# Wadebridge School

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Company No: 07999988

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PP/jet

17<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are no doubt aware, a very important time is approaching for your son/daughter at Wadebridge School. In September they start Key Stage 4 and a range of formal qualifications, with implications for their future choices in education and employment.

May I therefore take this opportunity to advise you of a number of forthcoming events that will provide information, advice and guidance on the organisation of subjects in Key Stage 4, as well as the options process for those subjects that lie outside the compulsory core.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016, you will receive a report for your son/daughter and a Key Stage 4 Prospectus. The report provides important information on your son/daughter's progress, effort and behaviour in their various subjects in Year 9. The Key Stage 4 Prospectus has details of both the compulsory and optional subjects available to students in Years 10 and 11. In addition, there is a letter from Mr Glynn, Assistant Headteacher, on the options process and guidance on the different types and levels of qualification in Key Stage 4.

Students have four option columns, but in one of the columns they have to choose either a humanity (History or Geography), or a Language (French or Spanish). The only exception to this is where a student is taking a vocational pathway (a practical college course e.g. Hair & Beauty).

I would ask that you read both the Report and the Key Stage 4 Prospectus with your son/daughter, in order to help them explore the different qualification routes available and what courses might be most appropriate for them, in terms of their strengths and interests. Students are already discussing options in form time and PSHE and will receive further guidance in assembly, so hopefully they will have started to form their own opinions on possible subjects for Key Stage 4.

If you wish to start considering your son/daughter's options now, the Key Stage 4 Prospectus is available on the School's Website, under Curriculum, Key Stage 3. On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the Year 9 Consultation and Options Evening will take place in the main school building between 4.00 and 7.00 pm. This will give you the opportunity to make appointments to see the subject teachers of the options you are considering. You will also be able to see specialist staff for advice and guidance on new subject areas at Key Stage 4, such as the vocational pathways. The Senior Staff will be on hand with general advice and guidance. Please enter the school site via the Sports Centre entrance and park on the main playground. You will be asked to sign in on arrival so that our prefects can help you to keep your appointments.

An important part of our options process is a personalised option consultation meeting for each student. This will involve the student, parent(s) and a senior member of staff. This will allow us to:

- Explain the options process in more detail;
- Explore with you the possible subject interests of your son/daughter in relation to their strengths and weaknesses and future aspirations;

- Look at likely target grades across different subjects;
- Help signpost further specialist subject advice at the Year 9 Consultation Evening;
- Answer any questions you might have about the Key Stage 4 curriculum and options process.

The amount of time needed for these meetings will vary, but we anticipate that they will typically last around 10 minutes. In order to organise your meeting, I am asking you to reserve your appointment. The appointments are available at 10 minute intervals, from 8.00am to 6.00pm. I am aware that work commitments may make it impossible for some parents to make an appointment on the day in question and where this is the case I would ask you to contact the school to see if an alternative time and date can be found.

Please return the attached reply slip to Mrs Heidi Allwood or email Heidi at [parents@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:parents@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk) and include the appointment time that is most convenient for you. Just in case your preferred time slot has already been reserved, please also show a second and third choice.

I cannot emphasise enough how important the options choices are for your son/daughter. Therefore, I would ask that you plan enough time to fully explore all of your child's options before returning the Preference Form on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

If you have any concerns regarding the options process, please do not hesitate to contact me. Alternatively, you can email [parents@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:parents@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely



Mr P Petchey  
Key Stage 3 Leader