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Dear Parent

Last week saw the launch of our GCSE Choices programme. Over the next few weeks we will talk to students about what all of our GCSE courses entail and also look at various post-16 options. All of this is to help students make informed choices for their GCSE subjects.

All students will have an individual meeting with either a member of the Senior Leadership team or Miss Fairweather, our internal Careers Advisor, to ensure they are accessing all the support available and offer any further guidance. In addition, all students have the option to request a meeting with our external, Level 6 Careers Advisor, Christine Walton. Some of these will be held in school and the first of these meetings have already been arranged. However, these can be held remotely during evenings and weekends to allow parental involvement. If you would like details on how to arrange a meeting please email [s.fairweather@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:s.fairweather@smithdonhigh.org.uk).

Attached to this email is our 2022-23 Curriculum Guide. Here you will find information about all of our courses and contact details for all of the Heads of Faculty, should you need further information. There is also a Frequently Asked Questions section. All students have been given a hard copy of this booklet.

Also attached is a PDF copy of the powerpoint presentation used last week to launch the process to the students. This is where you will find further information about what the courses are and how students should go about making their choices.

The final few slides of the powerpoint also outline our position in expecting all students to select a language (French or German, if they have studied German). The government has stated its ambition that by 2025, 95% of students will study a language at GCSE. This ambition is based on wide ranging research by the Sutton Trust (summarised in my powerpoint) showing the benefits of learning a language. Whilst I fully appreciate that not all of our students and parents are in agreement with this; it is the position that Smithdon, along with the vast majority of other high schools, have chosen to take.

All information regarding this process, including the two documents attached here can be found on our website <https://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk/GCSEChoices>. Further updates will also be posted on this page.

The next two years will have a huge role in shaping your child's future, so your input in helping them prepare for this is vital. Thank you for your support.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs S Robinson**  
Deputy Headteacher

The Cambridge  
Partnership  
Graduate Teacher Programme

