



Smithdon High School
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Dear Parent

We are now half way through the spring half term where students are considering their GCSE choices. This letter is to update you on what they have been doing, inform you of important dates and suggest to you some useful resources for supporting your child.

Over the last three weeks students have been looking at future choices, this includes sixth form, apprenticeships, college and universities. They have also been using the app Unifrog that has a wealth of information about courses and careers. Each student has their own login for Unifrog, so can save information they are interested in and have tailored information highlighted to them. Please do have a look at this with them.

In addition to this, some of our students have met with Mrs Walton, our external careers advisor, for help and guidance. This is an opportunity offered to all students, so if you feel your child would benefit from this, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a meeting.

Over the next few weeks, students will be watching presentations about each of the GCSE courses we run. Given by our Heads of Departments and Subject Leaders, these will explain to students what each course involves, what they can expect if they choose the course and what future opportunities the course could lead to. These will be posted to your child's tutor group Google Classroom, so if you wish to watch any with your child you can do so.

This week, every child will receive a hard copy of our curriculum guide, which can also be found on our website following the link below
<https://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk/site/data/files/documents/options/D4EAEDAA9509F2B5EE71E2F0B00EF38C.pdf>

This contains details about every course and has a useful FAQ section at the beginning, so please do have a look. You will also find the contact details of all of the Lead Teachers for each course: if you or your child have any questions about a particular course please contact the relevant member of staff.

I will be in touch again before the Easter holidays with another update and details about how students will make their final choices, but in the meantime please note the two most important dates of this process; the dates when subject selection open and closes:

25th April - Subject selection opens
29th April - Subject selection closes

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please do not hesitate to contact me by direct dial on 01485 536120 or email s.robinson@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Robinson
Deputy Headteacher