



29th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 9 Options process launch

This week we begin launching our Options process for Year 9 students. The Options process will be the opportunity for your child to think about and select the option subjects which they will study in Year 10. This is the most important stage in your child's education so far and we want to provide the best support to ensure that you and your child can make the correct next step. This letter is to outline the key parts of the process that we have in place to support your child during this time.

The first part of the process is to support your child to think about what they might want to study and where their choices could lead them. This starts on **Friday 31st January** with a performance from an external provider titled 'Options and Choices'. The aim of this performance is to support students to:

- Realise for themselves the importance of choosing their options and making the most of their choices
- Understand where to go and who to talk to for help, guidance and support
- Understand that the decisions they make now really can affect their future
- Realise the importance of a broad-based education
- Understand the value of staying in learning
- Be aware of all pathways available to them in KS4
- Identify potential barriers in choosing the right learning route for them and ways in which these can be overcome

The second part of the process will involve your child selecting the preferred option subjects which they would like to study. This will begin on **Tuesday 4th March**, with your child receiving an Options Pathway Booklet containing information about subjects and courses available, along with the Option form they will need to fill in to select their preferences.

Furthermore, we would like to invite you to our **Options Choices event on Wednesday 5th March**. The presentation for parents/carers of Avonbourne Boys' Academy will take place at 5pm, whilst the presentation for parents/carers of Avonbourne Girls' Academy will take place at 6pm. The aim of this presentation is to give you further insight into the process, potential subjects for students to choose from and provides a platform for any potential discussion points or questions with key leaders and teachers. We will also have staff available across the option subjects we offer to discuss these with you and your child. Mrs Pether and Mrs Larrington-Vandy will also be available from the Careers department, to answer any questions regarding how options choices link to post 16 options. More details regarding this event will be communicated nearer the time. Once parents, carers and students have progressed through this process, we will invite students to make their Option preference choices - please be aware that the deadline for submissions will be **Friday 21st March**.

Principal: Michelle Dyer



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www.sacu-student.com Career Quiz helping you find the right career, degree or apprenticeship

www.careerpilot.org.uk for researching career options for 13-19 year olds

www.getingofar.gov.uk Information about Apprenticeships

www.ucas.com for information on Higher Education and University

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk for alternatives to University

If you have any questions or queries that are not answered in either this letter or at the Option Choices event, please don't hesitate to contact me at year9options@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Tom Kidman
Assistant Principal

Principal: Michelle Dyer

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Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies
Harewood Avenue
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH7 6NY

t: 01202 398451

e: office@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

w: <http://www.avonbourneacademy.org.uk>