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12th July 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer

GCSE OPTIONS

As we move closer to the end of the school year, we are looking towards September and the start of the GCSE course with Year 10 students. Students should have already had their GCSE options confirmed and have had the opportunity to make changes to their choices if necessary.

Before we begin the GCSE courses, we would like to remind our students about the importance of studying a language at GCSE. Although a number of students have already chosen a language at GCSE, we would ask that those moving into GCSEs without an MFL course, take time to consider the benefits of studying a language.

The Government and many of the Universities in the UK are encouraging Year 10 and 11 students to complete an Ebacc range of subjects. The Ebacc is made up of the subjects which the Russell Group (the top Universities in the UK) says, can open more doors to more degrees. The Ebacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. Studying the Ebacc means taking exams in:

- English language and literature
- maths
- the sciences
- geography or history
- and a language

I am writing to you as we believe that your child has the potential to be successful in studying a language at GCSE and we felt it was important that you and your child take a final opportunity to consider this. There is further independent research that highlights the benefits of studying a language. A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the Ebacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying all the Ebacc subjects can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

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We would encourage students to look at their option choices to see if they have covered the subjects required for an Ebacc qualification. Although not compulsory, we would highly recommend the Ebacc qualification to some of our students. We want our students to have the best opportunities after they leave us.

If you have any questions about the Ebacc qualification, post 16/ post 18 choices or the options process please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy via email (E.Thomason@tnha.org.uk) or telephone.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Thomason', written in a cursive style.

Miss E Thomason
Vice Principal