



# Willingdon

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for attending our Year 9 Options Evening in January and for supporting your child in thinking carefully about their subject choices for Key Stage 4. We were delighted to see so many of you there, and we hope the evening was helpful in guiding those important decisions.

I am writing to ensure that all families have a clear understanding of how the options allocation process works, as I want to avoid any misunderstanding ahead of students receiving their final options. As I explained on the evening, students were asked to select six preferences in order of priority. Our aim is to accommodate each student's top four choices wherever possible, and we will work hard to do so. However, I want to be transparent that this is not always achievable for every student.

The options process is complex. Subjects must be timetabled in a way that works across the whole year group, and some combinations of subjects cannot always be facilitated due to timetabling constraints. This means that in some cases, a student may be allocated their 5th or 6th preference subject rather than one of their top four.

This is why we asked students to choose six subjects they would be genuinely happy to study, not simply as a backup, but as a realistic part of the process. If your child receives a subject from lower down their preference list, this will be the result of genuine timetabling constraints, not a lack of effort on our part. We will do everything we can to minimise this, but we cannot promise every student their top four choices.

In addition, a small number of courses have unfortunately not attracted sufficient numbers to be financially viable to run. Where a student has selected one of these courses as a preference, we will be in contact directly before the Easter break to discuss what this means for your child and to ensure they are supported in making an alternative choice. We want to reassure all families that we continue to offer a broad and balanced range of options subjects, with plenty of scope for students to pursue their interests and strengths.

Final options allocations will be shared at the start of Term 6. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through what is a detailed and time-consuming timetabling process. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

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