



OLD BUCKENHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

*Be the best we can be*

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you to keep you informed about the Year 9 options process. We feel it is important to work with you to ensure that the courses we offer are well suited to the aspirations your son/daughter has for the future in terms of further education, training and employment.

Given the disruption to the school over the past year it is very important that students and parents are fully aware of all that is on offer for your son/daughter as they move into Year 10. Below is a calendar of the events in the options process, additional details of the events and more information will be published on the school website under the Options tab.

Due to Covid restrictions the process will be conducted virtually using our Microsoft Teams platform.

Date	Activity	Details
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Straw Poll survey	This is sent to you via Microsoft Forms. It will list the core and non-core courses that we offer. This poll will enable the school to formalise the courses that will run in September. It is important to note that some subjects may not run and that the survey is for planning purposes.
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	On-line Year 9 Progress Evening	You will be able to discuss with subject teachers how the year has gone so far. You will get the opportunity to discuss Options at the IAG evening in February.
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for return of Straw Poll survey via Microsoft Forms.	Return date: If you are unable to complete the on-line form please contact the school at your earliest convenience.
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	On-line Information and Advice Guidance (IAG) Evening	This is the evening where you will get the opportunity to discuss with Curriculum and Subject Leaders the courses in preparation for filling out the forthcoming preference forms. The event will be an on-line event with a live presentation and bookable slots for meetings.



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February 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	Subject assemblies	Students will be shown more detail about options and asked to think about what they might want to study in context of their aspiration post 16.
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Publication of the preference form via Microsoft Forms	Students will be informed of what they need to do and given advice on guidance on how to complete forms by their tutor.
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Deadline for return of the preference form	If parents are unable to complete an on-line form please contact the school at you earliest convenience. It is important to note that the selection of a course does not guarantee a place.
March 15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	Subject interviews	Students will attend an interview with a senior staff member to go over their options preference form. This enables us to make sure that students are well suited to the options they have indicated.
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Options published	Options will be allocated to students. Students will receive notification of which courses they have been allocated.

If you have any questions about the process please contact me via email at [scowan@obhs.co.uk](mailto:scowan@obhs.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Clark  
Assistant Headteacher



Mr S Cowan  
Head of Key Stage 3