

16th January 2023

Dear families

Year 9 Options Process

We are approaching an important time in your child's secondary education here at Dixons Croxteth Academy. Planning for the options process is underway and we are aiming for all year 9 students to have selected their options before we finish for the Easter break. Making the right decisions and choices is of vital importance and we will endeavour to ensure that you and your child are well informed about the process and the choices on offer.

As a Dixons academy, our curriculum is aligned to a common set of trust-wide principles which are underpinned by our mission to challenge educational and social disadvantage in the North. We believe all students are entitled to an ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum which will open doors and maximise life chances. As a result, we have developed an offer which allows all students the opportunity to study the full EBacc. The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps students' options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc consists of:

- English language and literature
- mathematics
- science
- humanities (geography or history)
- modern foreign language - Spanish

Our GCSE offer is broad and balanced with a strong core in the EBacc. By focusing on the EBacc, Dixons academies have transformed lives and opened up opportunities by delivering an academically rigorous curriculum resulting in higher-end grades in high-value qualifications. This is what students at Dixons Croxteth Academy deserve.

The option process is outlined below in six stages:

Stage 1 – Expression of interest

Year 9 students will complete an expression of interest form on Microsoft Forms. The information from this data will assist us in determining the courses we will provide.

Stage 2 – Option presentations

During the week beginning 13th February 2023, options presentations will be delivered during Morning Meeting time. This will involve video presentations being shared with students on the different courses we have to offer. This will be particularly useful to find out about subjects that they have not studied at KS3. A copy of the Options Booklet will also be available for students from this date and will support the information in the videos. Students will be able to take the Options Booklet home so that you can discuss the range of courses on offer with your child. Options presentations will also be made available on our website, should students wish to revisit them.

Stage 3 - Options Evening

We will be hosting Options Evening for you and your child to attend on Thursday 9th March 2023, between 4pm – 6pm. During this evening you will get the opportunity to find out more about our KS4 curriculum and rationale behind the curriculum offer. You will also be able to



ask questions to subject leads and other staff responsible for delivering subjects at Dixons Croxteth.

Stage 4 – Completion of options form

On Friday 10th March 2023, the day after the Options Evening, your child will receive an email with a link to select their options using a Microsoft Forms. There will be a question to confirm that you agree with your child's choices in order to reduce any issues later in the process. The form must be completed promptly and the deadline for submission of this form will be 9am on Monday 13th March 2023. This deadline must be adhered to so that stage 5 is not delayed.

Stage 5 – Options meetings and final submission of options choices

During the weeks of 13th and 20th March 2023, your child will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss their chosen options. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that students are fully aware of the demands of the courses selected and that they are appropriate and challenging. At this meeting, students' choices will be formally submitted.

Stage 6 – Final confirmation of options

Before we break up for May half term, you and your child should receive final confirmation of the subjects that will be studied from Y10 onwards. Curriculum leaders will also be informed of the students studying their subject. There is a lot of information in this letter so please do take some time to look through it with your son. Information will be posted on our website (<https://www.dixonscr.com>) so please check this periodically to keep up to date with the process. Any videos or further resources to assist with the options process will also be posted on here. If you have any questions, please email school using the enquiries email address – info@dixonscr.com and put 'Year 9 Options' as the subject of your email.

Mrs C Watson
Director of Formation

