



14 December 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

Re: Year 9 Options

Your child is about to embark on an exciting time in their career journey. The start to the new term begins a schedule of activities to help prepare all year 9 pupils to make informed option choices. These choices will be the first step towards their career pathway, and the aim of this programme is to help pupils understand what opportunities are available to them for future employment. In addition, we hope this experience will encourage pupils to be aspirational in their career choices and ambitious in their next steps in life.

Below is an overview of the variety of activities which will be taking place from Monday 9 January 2023 to Friday 10 February 2023:

Life Skills lessons

These weekly lessons focus on careers and options pathways using our careers platform called UniFrog. All year 9 pupils will receive a personal login to build their career profile. This platform will be used throughout their Key Stage Four and Five journey while at Stanground Academy.

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

All pupils will partake in a one-to-one meeting with their life skills teacher to discuss, review and plan their option choices.

Assemblies

A weekly career focus assembly led by our Director of Aspirations, Head of Year, Stanground Alumni, Senior Leader for Curriculum and external careers lead from NEACO. Each assembly will help to inspire, support and guide pupils through understanding their career pathway.

<https://www.takeyourplace.ac.uk/about/about/-neaco/>

Tutor Time

Curriculum leaders will be designing a weekly presentation that informs pupils about careers linked to their subjects/ courses. This will inform pupils about the direction and variety of possible career opportunities linked to the subjects they are studying. There will be two presentations taking place each week over the half-term.

Aim A Little Higher presentation

During an extended tutorial session, all year 9 pupils will be attending a keynote presentation led by the company called 'Aim a little higher'. This is a motivational company who help to inspire pupils to be ambitious and secure a pupil's self-belief to achieve their full potential.

<https://www.aimalittlehigher.com/assembly>

Careers Fair

A range of local companies, colleges and universities attend our careers fair organised by our Director of Aspirations. Year 9 pupils will have an allocated time to visit our careers fair to speak to all the invited representatives about the opportunities available to them in our local community and wider neighbouring towns/ cities.

Careers Taster sessions

The range of option subjects available to study at Key Stage Four extends beyond our core Key Stage Three curriculum. During this week, pupils are given the opportunity to 'taste' the nature of these new subjects. Pupils will experience what it is like to study these new subjects and are able to ask questions about the course and the nature of assessment.

Options Fair (with core subject parent's evening) - Thursday 9 February 2023

A uniquely designed evening where parents/ carers are invited to attend an options fair with their child. This evening will open with a formal presentation led by the Senior Leader for Curriculum, introducing the options subject selection process.

You and your child will receive their latest Progress Check report. Using this information, you can then attend the options fair, where each subject lead hosts a stand. This gives the opportunity for parents to meet subject teachers to learn about the course content and assessment. You will be able to engage in purposeful conversations with your child's class teacher about the option subjects which are of interest, based on preference and latest academic success.

In addition, at a specified time, a parents evening appointment with your child's English, Maths and Science teacher will take place. In these meetings you will learn about the progress being made, your child's knowledge gaps and their next steps ready to embark on the Key Stage Four learning journey.

Option subjects are chosen

Over the half-term all year 9 pupils will make their option choices through an online link to an MS Form. We strongly recommend this is a process completed with both the parent and the child together, based on the 'Option Journey' experience and advice from your child's teachers.

All correspondence will be sent to the main contact registered with the academy during the week commencing, 6 February 2023. Please ensure all contact details, including email addresses, have been updated prior to this date.

More communication will follow in the new year on this final stage of the process.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information letter. I hope you agree that the 'options journey' is designed to support and encourage your child to embrace the new possibilities that await them as they embark on their first steps to their future career. We believe every child can flourish in their chosen career pathway and together, we will help them throughout this process.

If you have any questions during this 'options journey' program, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's Head of Year.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Amy Copland
Senior Assistant Principal for Curriculum