

Preparing for Options GCSEs 2023-24

June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

You should have received a letter via your child, confirming their options before half term. You will be aware that students will be studying for one of the optional GCSE (or equivalent) subjects next year alongside their core subjects that continue through until the end of Y11. Students will have 5 hours a week of timetabled lessons next year for their 1-year course ready to sit the corresponding exam in summer 2024.

We have prepared a 'bridging work' booklet for each course. This is to bridge the gap from current to new knowledge in order to make a great start on these courses in September. Each booklet is designed to take around six to eight hours in total. Students will have some time given over to undertake the bridging work in some of their lessons in the last 3-4 weeks of the summer term. For students in Y10, this is the time when they are no longer studying the one-year course they took this year. For students in Y9, they will have time given over during their IT and RPE lessons the final 3-4 weeks of the year.

Students work at different rates, so students who are unable to complete this preparatory work during school time, should endeavour to engage with it over the long summer holiday. ALL students would benefit from reviewing their bridging work at the end of August, just prior to their new courses commencing in September. Students should ensure they have attempted any summary assessments included and hand them in to their new teacher so that their understanding of ideas presented can be checked at the start of the new course.

There may also be some additional enrichment resources to engage with and students should certainly explore the relevant subject areas of the MLE to broaden their understanding of the curriculum they are about to embark upon. The more students are willing to look at and work on independently, the better prepared they will be to start their courses, but we expect all students to have done the minimum six hours of work indicated in the bridging booklet.

Teachers will issue each student with the booklet they need in the first lesson where time is available to work on it. Students will need to take responsibility for their own booklet after that, since they will have time to work on it over several subsequent lessons. Over the summer holiday, students will need to take their booklet with them, to finish if not already complete, or refer to for review before September. They will need to look after it carefully, since they will need to bring it with them to the first lesson of the new course in September. If the booklet is lost, it is possible to access/print out a new copy from the 'Options' area on the MLE.

Please encourage your child to engage positively with this work, which has been designed to support them to make the best start to their new courses in September and make good use of gained lesson time in the final weeks of the summer term.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Vaughan
Deputy Head
High Storrs school