



Welcome

This is the Spring Edition of our Future Insights Bulletin which we will issue each term.

The school employs an Independent Careers Advisor. Students can make an appointment through their tutor or go to the drop-in sessions in the Library every Tuesday and Wednesday break time. If you have a question about careers please contact info@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk.



KS4 Options

With the Year 9 Parents Information Evening fast approaching on Thursday 3rd March, we would like to take this opportunity to discuss the process.

Having the opportunity to choose the subjects that will make up the curriculum in KS4 is an exciting one but it can also be daunting as it is important to make sure that the choices allow your child to pursue their interests and career aspirations in the future.

How much should I influence my child's options?

Whilst this is clearly about their future not yours, at this age they will inevitably still need guidance and input from you and their teachers.

Discuss the options, their pros and cons and the long term influence of subjects, but in the end it should be their choice, supported by the school and you. If they study subjects they enjoy learning about, it makes such a difference.

It's also important to make sure your child's choices aren't unduly influenced by friends - of course it's nice to be in the same class, but your child is going to be the one doing the studying. Also, they shouldn't opt out of a subject or chose a subject purely based on the teacher.

In summary:

- Think about their future study or career plans: is there a subject they are sure they want to do at A-level or college that they need to continue with now at GCSE?
- Consider what they enjoy and are good at.
- Seek their teachers' advice on which subjects will play to their strengths.
- Help students to rank their career preferences in order of preference.

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The current English Baccalaureate is not a qualification itself but a particular group of GCSE subjects that are usually looked on favourably by universities.

It is not necessary to have studied all of these to go to university, but having a GCSE mix steered towards EBacc subjects may help keep options open:

- English
- Maths
- The Sciences
- History or Geography
- A Language

The government line changes often and students should focus on subjects they are best at and subjects they are or will be interested in rather than a prescriptive set of subjects.

The Real Game - Summer Term

Students will be off timetable for the morning to work on this careers simulation.

Working within a job role of their choice, students will work in teams to plan, budget and prepare for a holiday.

This will help them to develop the all important soft skills required by employers.

These skills are transferable skills, so they can be used in many different types of jobs. The personal qualities and attitudes learnt can help students to work well with others and make a positive contribution to organisations they work for. E.g.

- Communicating
- Making decisions
- Showing commitment
- Flexibility
- Time management
- Leadership skills
- Creativity and problem-solving skills
- Being a team player
- Accepting responsibility



GCSE Changes Explained

From 2015, changes to GCSEs in certain subjects were introduced, in a bid to make subject content and exams more challenging.

GCSE reform – what's happening and when?

In September 2015, new GCSEs in English (language and literature) and maths were introduced in England and Wales, with the first of these exams taking place in summer 2017. Most other GCSE subjects will change from 2016 onwards.

What's changing?

Exams and assessment

- Most exams will be taken at the end of the two-year course rather than on completion of modules.
- There will be fewer 'bite-sized' questions and more essay-style questions.
- The content will be more challenging, with more substantial texts in English literature and a number of new topics in maths.
- Everyone will have to do at least two science GCSEs (no single science option after 2016).
- Coursework and controlled assessment will disappear from most subjects, apart from practical ones such as art, dance and drama.

GCSE grades

Grading will move to a 9-1 scale, with grade 9 being roughly equivalent to a top A* grade and a grade 4 equivalent to a low to mid grade C.

How will this affect your future university application?

University might seem a long way off when deciding on GCSE choices but they can directly impact options when it comes to A-levels and, in turn, when applying to university.

Recommended Websites:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

<https://www.plotr.co.uk>

<http://fasttomato.com>

<http://adviseronline.ansbury.co.uk>

All login codes can be found in the Autumn Future Insights Bulletin