



23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

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Dear Parents/Guardians

## Year 9 January Assessments and Options Process

You may have noticed on the school calendar that Year 9 students are scheduled to take a number of assessments during the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> January. The revision lists for each subject will be posted on Edulink before the end of term. By grouping a number of assessments together, it enables us to give students the important experience of preparing for a number of tests prior to taking any external examinations.

These assessments form part of our normal pre-planned assessment schedule, which is used to measure the progress of all our students.

These assessments may also help your child with their decisions regarding which subjects to take in Year 10. It is important to note that assessments should not be the only piece of information your child considers.

In December we will begin the Options process, which will help to guide your child in making their subject choices. There are several stages to this process, including:

What	When	Why
<b>Options website published -</b>	Dec 2022	This includes: <b>Options Brochure</b> – this gives a more detailed overview of the options process and a ‘snap-shot’ of each subject. It will enable your child to see the range of subjects and start the process of making choices. <b>Videos</b> - using the subject specific videos and helpful information will support your child in making their initial decisions. <b>FAQs</b> - there is also a useful FAQ document on the site you may wish to read now.
<b>Parents/Guardians Information Evening</b>	5th December 2022 - 6:30pm	All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend to find out vital information about each type of subject and the options process.
<b>Introduction Assembly</b>	Dec 2022	In explaining the stages of the options process to all students, your child will have a good understanding of each stage
<b>Subject Assemblies for Students</b>	Early Jan 2023	Focusing mainly on subjects not taught in Years 7-9, a number of subject leads describe what it’s like



		to study their subject and the types of careers it could lead to
<b>CPD Sessions</b>	Dec 2022 and Jan 2023	The fortnightly character and personal development sessions focus on 'Futures', careers and the options process.
<b>Initial options choices are made</b>	Jan 18th 2023	All students identify an initial set of choices and reserve subjects. These are NOT the final choices. This process helps children make an initial decision which they can then change. Your child will also bring a copy home to show you.
<b>Initial option choices are reviewed by pastoral and senior staff</b>	Between 18th Jan to 15th Feb 2023	This will enable a sense check of initial choices and advice can be provided at this point if it is needed.
<b>Parent/Guardian Consultations</b>	9th Feb 2023	By this point the final option choices should be clear in the child's mind. This final stage allows for last minute questions and information gathering.
<b>FINAL choice option form OPENS online</b>	5pm 9th Feb 2023	During these 6 days students will enter their final choices into an online form.
<b>FINAL choice option form CLOSSES</b>	9am 15th Feb 2023	
<b>Option blocks are written</b>	Feb Half term	Over the half term holiday Miss Page will build the option blocks around the FINAL choices each student makes. <b>If option choices are submitted late there is a chance we will not be able to give a child their first choice</b>
<b>Options confirmation meetings with senior staff</b>	2nd half of spring term	We are able to offer the vast majority of students their first choice of options. If a child picks an unusual combination that we cannot offer then alternatives and reserve subjects will be discussed during this time period
<b>Requests for changes will be processed</b>	During w/c 24th April 2023	Any requests to change options will be processed during this week only. No further changes will be accepted after this date.
<b>Requests for changes will be considered</b>	By the end of the third week of <b><u>Year 10</u></b>	Once a child has started a course, very occasionally they may wish to change. This request, along with the reasons, will need to be submitted to Miss Page & Mr Anwar and their decision will be final.

Our Options website can be accessed using this link:

<https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/options2022/home>

**Please note that not all parts of this are active/up to date just yet, but wanted you to be able to start looking at it now.**

For the FAQs, please use this link **(these are current and correct)**:

<https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/options2022/home/information>

The options process is a challenging, yet exciting time for students. It is the first time they are able to make key decisions about their learning and the subjects they will take from the huge range on offer. We hope that you also enjoy finding out more about these subjects and supporting your child through the process.

We hope the above information is helpful, but if you have any queries, please contact us via [office@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@arden.solihull.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Miss Page**  
Deputy Headteacher



**Mr Hooper**  
Deputy Headteacher



**Mr Reed**  
Director of KS3



**Mr Anwar**  
Head of Y9