

Our Ref: NTH

Date: 2nd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 Pathways 2020/2021

I am writing to you with regards to the GCSE options process which will be **launched online on Friday the 5th February 2021 at 3pm**. Ordinarily, you would have been invited to school to meet representatives from each faculty to discuss the various subjects available at our school. This year, we have made all this information available to students on our school website at <https://oldburyacademy.com/pathways/>.

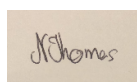
Each subject has provided key information about exam boards, course content, information regarding what to expect on the course and careers linked to the respective subject. The information provided endeavours to give students an understanding of what they need to do to succeed at a GCSE level and also prepare them for their future career progression.

At Oldbury, we support students in their selection of GCSE subjects, by consulting their class teachers in all subjects and using a series of assessment data to identify students' strengths. Based on this wealth of data collected on each student, they are assigned to one of five Pathways which is most suited to their areas of strength. Students' are able to select subjects of their preference from their bespoke Pathway. Although we try our best to ensure that all students get to study the subjects that they have chosen through this process, there may be situations where students may not be offered a course due to restrictions on class sizes. We strongly encourage students to select a reserve subject in the event this occurs so that they can still pursue a subject of their choice.

All students have been informed of their respective Pathways via text messages sent on Friday the 29th of January 2021. The process for selecting GCSE subjects is conducted online using a platform called Sims Options. Information regarding students accessing this website have been emailed to students' school accounts. It is important that students check their school email and follow the information provided regarding registration for this website before Friday. This email would have been sent from the account: noreply@sims.co.uk. Once registration for this website is complete, students will then be able to select their GCSE subjects when the information goes live this Friday 5th January at 3pm. Students will have access to this website for one week and the **deadline for selecting their subjects for GCSE is on Friday the 12th of February 2021 at 3pm**.

We hope that you will find all the information provided from the various subjects useful in supporting decisions regarding selecting subjects for GCSE. In the event that you have any queries please send an email to pathways@oldburyacademy.org.uk.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms Thomas
Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum
Oldbury Academy

