

Friday , 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

With students now fully settled back into school, I thought I would write to inform you of the processes that will follow later in the year with regard to students selecting subjects for study in Key Stage 4 (KS4), from September 2023 onwards.

At Oldbury, we operate a process called *Pathways*, where students are placed onto particular guided pathways which will determine the subjects they will study as they move into KS4. The rationale behind *Pathways* is to ensure students leave Oldbury having maximised their academic potential, and giving them the best possible chance of succeeding in extremely competitive world when they leave school.

We have a number of different pathways, and different students will be placed onto different pathways depending on their academic profile. This is determined by a series of assessment data collected from students during their time at Oldbury, as well as a consideration of other factors such as KS2 grades (which act as a 'starting point' for how progress is measured), behaviour and conduct in subjects and overall performance in school. Different pathways will determine which subjects can be chosen for study in KS4.

This year, we will be sharing information with students during form time about careers and subjects available at Oldbury. Students will be given access to the Morrisby virtual platform, which gives bespoke guidance to students about their future careers. Students would then be able to make informed decisions when selecting courses for their GCSEs. The Oldbury Academy website also contains detailed information about the subjects we offer which will support students in selecting subjects for KS4.

We will be inviting parents and students in to school on the evening of February the 16<sup>th</sup> to give you an opportunity to talk to staff about the subjects on offer at Oldbury. Following this event, students will be able to select their subjects online using a link, which will be emailed to students in February. Further information regarding accessing the online platform will be shared in future communications. Please ensure that we have accurate contact details for you as the majority of the information will be sent out to you via text messages.

At this stage, I would encourage you to conduct conversations with students about possible careers, and linking this to students' interests in their subjects. I would also encourage students to have conversations about potential subject choices with their class teachers as this will always be beneficial and will aid this process. Students in year 9 should continue to apply themselves in all of their subjects and continue what has been an excellent start to the academic year.

If you have any questions about *Pathways* please do not hesitate to email us at [pathways@oldburyacademy.org.uk](mailto:pathways@oldburyacademy.org.uk). I look forward to communicating with you later in the academic year.

Kind regards,

Nadia Thomas  
Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum