



# Priestlands School

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March 2021

Dear Parent

I am writing to provide you with information about the Year 9 Curriculum Choices process which is taking place during March, with key dates as follows. Due to the current public health situation all events will be hosted remotely.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Year 9 Curriculum Choices Booklets will be issued electronically to students via Teams, Show my Homework and the Year 9 page on the school website.**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Year 9 Curriculum Choices Evening to be broadcast on You Tube via Teams, Show my Homework and the school website.**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

**Year 9 Parents' Evening via our Parents Evening app**

**9.00 am Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

**Deadline for online submission of completed curriculum choices**

All students and parents will have access to the Year 9 Curriculum Choices booklet from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. This contains important information about the courses available and will help students and parents to make informed choices. I will be delivering an assembly to students on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March to explain the Year 9 options process to them and make them aware of the choices they have available.

Our Curriculum Choices Evening for Year 9 parents and students will be held on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**. We will be hosting this event virtually and video recordings of all presentations will be available to students on Microsoft teams and to parents and students via show my homework and the school website. There will be an overall presentation about the process of curriculum choices, which should be viewed first, then students can view each of the individual subject area presentations that they may be interested in. It is important that students spend time watching these videos as they are a vital step in ensuring students make informed decisions about the courses they will study in Year 10 & 11. All videos will be published from 3.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

At the Year 9 Parents' Evening on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March** 4.30 – 7.30pm, you will have an opportunity to discuss specific subjects with your child's teachers.

At Priestlands we use an online booking system for our parents' evenings. This allows you to choose your own appointment time with each subject teacher and you will then receive an email confirming your appointment (if you have provided the school with a contact email address). To access this booking system please simply visit <https://priestlands.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> or follow the link on the school website. All you will need to log into the site is your name, your child's name and date of birth. The same platform will be the one used for attending your video appointment. The booking system will be live to parents from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm.

*Continued overleaf*

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In order to attend your booked video appointment you will need, as a minimum, a device with a microphone and speaker (such as a smart phone or ipad/laptop) and a compatible web browser (i.e. iPhone/iPad: Safari or Android: Chrome or Firefox). For more information please use the following link: <https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

In order for you to arrange appointments with all of your son/daughters teachers, the appointments will be five minutes in duration. Please could I request that you log in at least five minutes prior to your first appointment and then the teacher will admit you through the online waiting room. If you require a more detailed discussion about your son/daughter then a further appointment will need to be arranged with either your son/daughter's tutor, Mrs Nutt (Year 9 PSM) or Mrs Wagstaff (Head of Year 9). Please note that staff who teach two or more classes in Year 9 may not have capacity to meet all parents during the evening. If this is the case please contact the school and request a follow up telephone call. If you do not have access to the internet or are having difficulties accessing the site please contact Mrs Wagstaff or Mrs Nutt who will be happy to assist you.

Finally, please note that the form on the final page of the Curriculum Choices booklet for you and your son/daughter to use as a record when weighing up option choices. Your final confirmed option choices should be completed via an online submission using our SIMS Parent app. Guidance about how to do this can be found at the end of the booklet. All option choices must be submitted online by 9.00am on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

If you require any further information about the curriculum choices process please do not hesitate to contact me and I look forward to seeing you on both occasions.

Yours sincerely



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