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Dear Parents/Carers and Students

GCSE- Progress Pathways 2022 – 2024

I am delighted to welcome you to our process for identifying a suitable curriculum pathway for students in Key Stage 4. In addition to this letter, you will find emailed to both parent/carer AND student accounts, our Key Stage 4 Pathways 2022-2024 e-booklet.

Please read it together, as it details all the information required to undertake this important decision-making process.

As I detailed previously, all students in Key Stage 4 continue to study the core subjects to GCSE. They are English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science and Religious Studies. Students are also required to participate in dedicated periods of Physical Education.

All students will be required to study at least one of the Humanities subjects, either Geography or History.

Many students will choose to continue studying a language (i.e. French), thus fulfilling the Department for Education's recommended suite of subjects known collectively as the Ebacc. As per the DfE, "The EBacc is made up of the subjects which the Russell Group says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees...A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education." Please refer to the e-booklet for the DfE information regarding Ebacc subjects.

Students will then be asked to rank the remaining subjects in order of preference, from which we will determine the most suitable pathway, with key members of staff and SLT taking each individual student into consideration. TWO subjects will be offered from this list.

We have asked all students to check they can access SIMS Student, thus providing them with access to SIMS Options using the **same** login. Selecting preferences using SIMS Options is an extremely easy process for students:

Go to <https://www.sims-options.co.uk/> and sign in with the same login you used for SIMS Student. Follow the instructions on the screen:

- A) select your preferred Humanities subject—either Geography or History
- B) Rank the remaining subjects in order of preference from 1 (first choice) to 11 (last choice) by tapping each subject. To change the order of preference, follow the instructions on screen.

In the comments section, please inform us of any additional information you wish to provide, such as a career path you are considering, and any subjects required for that career path.

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*Our school is an inclusive place of learning that celebrates and welcomes diversity.
Every member of our community is a unique and special creation of God and is known,
cared for and valued for the contribution they make.
Every student is challenged and supported to achieve his best.*



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Parents can then authorise the order of preference if they wish by signing into the same website using the account used to register for SIMS Parent – this step is optional. (Please note that preferences CANNOT be selected via the SIMS Parent login.)

Using SIMS Options makes the process for students quick and simple, as the information is submitted to school instantly. However, I am providing a paper copy of the subject lists as an alternative means of ranking the preferences for any students who find they are unable to complete the electronic process.

Please submit your preferences using SIMS Options by **Friday 29th April 2022**. If returning a paper version please hand in to the main office by the same date, ensuring your name is included. We will advise parents/carers and students of their individual Progress Pathway during the Summer term.

Please note that courses will only be viable with sufficient uptake. Additional requirements may be in effect for some courses (see subject pages in the e-booklet for further information). Courses may be capped by size. Not all combinations of subjects will be possible.

I look forward to contacting you in due course.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Turner
Assistant Head Teacher