



Bishopton Road West, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 0QH  
T: 01642 704970  
E: enquiries@olsb.bhcet.org.uk  
W: www.olsb.bhcet.org.uk

**OUR LADY & ST. BEDE**  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Head Teacher: M Wilkinson  
CEO: Dame M Regan DBE OBE, DL  
M.Ed., B.Ed (Hons), FCIEA, CEA  
Deputy CEO: M Shorten M.Ed., BA (Hons)  
Chair of Directors: M Matthews B.Ed, NPQH

1 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Key Stage 4 Options Choices**

Year 9 is an exciting and important year for pupils where they will begin to exercise their first choices about the subjects which they will study for their formal qualifications at Key Stage 4. To support pupils with their options choices we will be holding a Key Stage 4 information week in school next week. During this week each subject will deliver a lesson to give pupils an understanding of what they will study at Key Stage 4, what the courses offered by the department are and what further education and careers opportunities these courses will lead to. Pupils will receive an assembly to explain the options process to them and an options booklet containing information about the options process and all the courses offered at Key Stage 4.

Whilst we are still not yet able to organise large public gatherings in school, we will provide a virtual options evening from Tuesday 8th February which will be available via the curriculum page on our school website. On the virtual options evening, there will be a series of videos explaining the options process and videos from each subject providing more information about the courses offered. These videos will remain on the school website for several weeks until pupils have completed their options forms. I hope that you will find the videos helpful in supporting you and your child to make an informed decision about the subjects to study next year.

On the 8th of March, we will be holding a Year 9 Parent's evening where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's option choices with their class teachers and form tutor. We are hopeful that after the half term we will once again be able to welcome pupils and their families back into school for face-to-face meetings though if this is not possible parent's and carers will be able to book virtual appointments with their child's teachers. We will write to you nearer the time to confirm the arrangements for the Year 9 parent's evening.

To make their options choices pupils will need to complete an online form on Microsoft Teams. This is the same platform that pupils use to access homework and online lessons when working from home. When opening their Teams app pupils will have a team called Options which will contain the online form to complete. This will be available from the beginning of options week, but I would encourage children not to complete the form and make their options choices until after the Year 9 parent's evening. For children who are unable to access Teams, paper copies of the options forms will be available upon request. The deadline for completing the options form will be Friday 11th March. If you have any further questions about the options process, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew McAuley  
Assistant Headteacher

