

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 GCSE options process

### Options Evening (Thornden Hall) 12<sup>th</sup> January

This is an event when we are normally able to meet parents/carers, answer questions and present the information first-hand. However, given the current conditions regarding COVID we have taken the decision to provide information regarding the options process to you via a pre-recorded video. Although different to meeting in person, we aim to provide the same standard of advice and guidance as we would in any other year. We hope that you will be able to access the information that you need, via the mechanisms below so that you and the students can begin the process of selecting options for the next academic next year.

### Video presentation

Firstly, we attach this video, which we hope is informative. It is 25 minutes long and features sections from Steve Hicks (Head of School), Rob Collar (Deputy Headteacher), Phil Balmond (Assistant Headteacher) and Adam Thomas (Head of Year). This is an updated version of the presentation that we would normally give in the Sports Hall. We would recommend that both you and the students watch this video.

Please find the video here: [https://youtu.be/7iCm6IBUb\\_k](https://youtu.be/7iCm6IBUb_k)

## Upper School Options Booklet

Secondly, we are attaching a copy of our updated Upper School Options booklet. We are sending this document to parents/carers and students via email. We encourage both students and parents and carers to read this booklet together. We would ask students to read more about the subjects that they are considering taking.

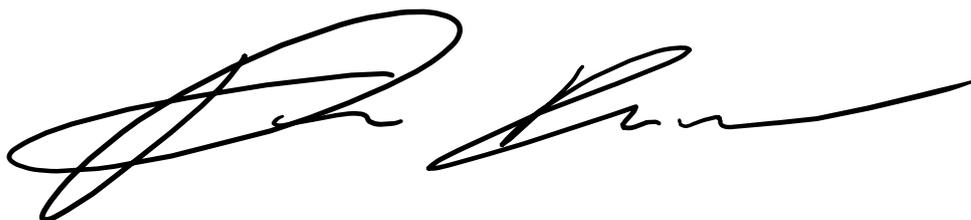
Choosing the right options is a crucial step in achieving strong outcomes and students who are motivated and happy in their learning tend to be highly successful.

## Contact details

We know that it is potentially more difficult to have the normal dialogue that we would expect with parents/carers at the present time. As a result, we have set up a specific email address, [options@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:options@thornden.hants.sch.uk), for option queries which we will triage and either reply by email or, more likely, call you to discuss it further. We always want to ensure that you can talk to the right person in order to help you and we hope that this enables us to do that as effectively as ever.

We hope that through these three resources support you and crucially our students to make the choices that are right for them. If you do have any questions, then please do get in contact via [options@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:options@thornden.hants.sch.uk).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Balmond', written in a cursive style.

Phil Balmond  
Assistant Headteacher  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2022