



4 February 2022

Dear Parents or Carers

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening on 23 February 2022 – Hunter and Becket

At St Martin's School we are committed to providing a curriculum that we believe will engage, motivate and challenge our young people. Through our options process, we firmly believe that your son or daughter will be well placed to achieve success, both in learning and through the qualifications gained, that will open doors to choice and opportunity at sixteen and allow them to transfer with confidence between schooling, further education and adult life.

The decisions to be made at the end of Year 9 are very important. You will have the chance to find out more about the courses being offered to your child through the Curriculum Booklet and the Key Stage Curriculum event. If students are to be as successful as they can be over the next two years, it is important that they understand that the courses they will be following are demanding and will require consistent effort.

There are two pathways which include core subjects of English Language, English Literature Mathematics, Science and PE (non-examined). Students also have a choice of options from a full complement of GCSEs and BTECs which are appropriate for each student. The options available on each pathway ensure there is a wide choice of subjects and the right programme of study is available for all.

The Curriculum Booklet for Years 10 and 11 gives details of the GCSE grading system and descriptions of all the courses available to your son or daughter from September 2022 to June 2024 and how they are assessed and examined. Please note an update to the curriculum booklet; unfortunately, we have had to make the difficult decision over the past few weeks to **drop the GCSE Economics course** from the year 9 options this year. As you are probably aware the recruitment of specialist teachers in such subjects as Economics has been virtually impossible over recent years. According to our HR Department, there are currently over 70 job advertisements for teachers of Economics within a 30 mile radius of the school. Despite our best efforts, we continue to struggle to recruit the standard of teaching that we and you require, hence the decision. Rest assured that students can continue to select Economics at A-level if they so wish.

At this important stage in your son or daughter's academic career we believe that it is essential to provide help and guidance when planning for the future. As such, we would like to invite you and your son or daughter to discuss the curriculum for Years 10 and 11 (2022-2024) on Wednesday 23 February from 4.00pm until 6.00pm in the South and North Halls.

Please note that students are expected to **wear full school uniform** when attending this event.

Be The Best You Can Be

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING;

- 4.00pm – 4.45pm** The opportunity to discuss courses with Heads of Departments or their representatives and see the type of work that is expected in Years 10 and 11 (North Hall).
- 5.00pm – 5.45pm** A formal meeting when members of staff will make short presentations about the new GCSE grading system and offer advice regarding the options process (South Hall).

The Options Form should be completed and returned to your son or daughter's form tutor by 8.45am on Monday 7 March 2022.

If you have any further questions about your son or daughter's upper school curriculum, then please do not hesitate to contact the year 9 office. We hope the information that will be made available to you will be useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Bryant', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miss A Bryant
Director of Key Stage 3