



The Henry Box School

Founded 1660

YEAR 9 CHOICES EVENING:

28TH JANUARY 2019

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- **New courses** – courses that students have not studied at Key Stage 3 are now available. It is important that students fully understand the requirements of these courses (by reading the description in the Choices Booklet and discussing with the teachers) before deciding whether to choose them or not. There will be opportunities for students to meet with these teachers to discuss the courses over the coming weeks. Form tutors will liaise with students about timings.
- **Equivalences** – All courses we offer are endorsed by the Department for Education (DfE). Non-GCSE subjects carry equivalence to GCSE grades and are worth the same weight when applying for courses at school sixth forms or FE colleges.



- **Levels of qualification** – Most courses are delivered at Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE 9-4) or Level 1 (equivalent to GCSE 3-1). GCSEs are now awarded on a 9-1 grade scale (9 being the highest grade and 4 equivalent to an old 'C' grade). A grade 5 is now being considered as a good pass by the DfE.
- **Science** – Students study either Combined Science (which incorporates aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and they will enter for a double award Science qualification (i.e. two GCSEs in Science); or Separate Sciences (i.e. separate GCSE courses for Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Separate Sciences are taught in both Science time as well as an option slot and so should be taken by enthusiastic scientists. For students wishing to go on to study A level Sciences, it is highly recommended that they opt for Separate Science GCSEs as the course is a much better preparation for post-16 study and provides better preparation for the new A level. However, students with a high grade in Combined Science will also be able to study Sciences at A level. Students should talk to their science teachers to establish whether this is likely to be a good choice for them.
- **Languages** – Only languages studied at Key Stage 3 may be studied at Key Stage 4. Students should talk to their language teacher if they are thinking of taking two languages at GCSE.
- **Art & DT subjects** – Due to the time-consuming nature of the practical elements of these courses, we highly recommend that students only choose one of these courses to study at GCSE.
- **Religion, Philosophy and Ethics & PE:** These are part of the core curriculum taken by all students and are non-examined courses. Students can also take GCSE Religious Studies, GCSE PE/BTEC Sports Studies as option subjects.

YEAR 9 CHOICES PROCESS

Monday 28th January 2019	Choices briefing to parents/carers
Wednesday 30th January 2019	Choices Assembly briefing to students
w/b 28th January 2019	Information and guidance available to parents/carers and students on school website
Wednesday 30th January 2019 onwards	Tutors available for support for students during registration/ tutor time
Monday 4th February 2019 onwards	Group appointments will be made for careers interviews. If there is a specific need, students should ask their form tutor to contact the Talentino Careers Coach for an individual appointment.
Monday 4th February – Friday 15th February 2019	Teachers of new Key Stage 4 courses available for discussion. All other subjects will run information sessions within lessons.
w/b 25th February 2019	Year 9 reports issued
Thursday 7th March 2019	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 13th March 2019	Deadline for students to hand in choices

STUDENTS: GUIDANCE WHEN MAKING YOUR CHOICES

- Use Year 9 reports, Parents' Evening and discussion with teachers to establish which subjects and qualifications best fit your ability and learning preferences.
- Speak to your tutor for a discussion about how to make sensible choices. Appointments with the Talentino Careers Coach can be arranged via your tutor.
- Make decisions about what is best for you, not based on what your friends are choosing/ particular teachers that you like etc.



- Remember – you will have to study these courses for the next 2 years so pick ones that you enjoy and do well in.
- Due to heavy coursework commitments in Art and DT, we strongly advise that you only choose one of these subjects.
- Able linguists may well wish to opt for two languages.
- Don't panic – very few courses you study Post 16 will require you have studied certain courses/combinations at Key Stage 4. If in doubt, see a Talentino Careers Coach for up to date information.

