

25 February 2025

Dear Family,

### **Key Stage 4 Options Process 2025**

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the timeline for the Year 9 Options process. This process results in Year 9 students selecting several subjects that they would like to study in Years 10 and 11 and is the first step in guiding students towards their future.

Our option process starts in February following the timeline specified below:

**Wednesday 26 February 2025** – All students attend an assembly in Session 1&2, during which the options process and timeline is shared with them.

**Week beginning Monday 3 March 2025** – A variety of subject leaders will present their Key Stage 4 qualifications to students through a set of assemblies. These presentations will cover subjects less well-known to our students, such as Health and Social Care, Business Studies, Computer Science, Creative Digital Media and Triple Science. Within these assemblies' subject leads will discuss the course outline, the methods of assessment and what it takes to succeed within the subject. Students may also see examples of work and hear about work/trips completed by previous year groups.

**Week beginning Monday 10 March 202** – All Year 9 students and parents will receive the final options booklet that will identify the options that students must select from.

**Thursday 13 March 2025** – Year 9 parents evening. I would strongly recommend that families take the opportunity to speak to their subject teachers about current attainment and future intentions, ensuring the subjects considered for Key Stage 4 are appropriate.

**Tuesday 25 March 2025** – All parents are strongly advised to attend a Parent Consultation Meeting and Marketplace with their child. This will take the format of a face-to-face appointment in the Academy with a senior member of staff during which your child's option choices for Key Stage 4 will be discussed and chosen. The purpose of the appointment is to guide you and your child through the choices which need to be made, considering your child's skills and attributes and their career plans. You will be allocated a 15-minute appointment between 3.45pm and 6.30pm and informed prior to the evening. If the appointment you are given is not suitable, then please telephone or email the Academy (01384 987973 or [info@tca.shirelandcat.net](mailto:info@tca.shirelandcat.net)) to request a different time slot. There will also be an open Marketplace with representatives from all options subjects on hand; families can find out more about these subjects during the evening and see if this is a viable option for your child going forwards.

During the options process there are several resources students and families can access to fully understand the courses and qualifications on offer:

- Thorns Collegiate Academy Website – The Year 9 Choices section of our website includes information about each course and short videos from our Heads of Department. <https://thornsca.org.uk/parents-and-carers/year-9-choices/>
- Start Profile and Unifrog Websites – These both assist students in thinking about their future career and the processes they need to go through in order to follow a specific path. <https://www.startprofile.com> or <https://www.unifrog.org/>
- Family and Friends Network – Please encourage your child to speak to their friends and family about their chosen subjects and to find out their firsthand experiences of courses they have studied.
- Higher Educational Institutions – Access local college or University websites to find out about specific career paths. What expectations do these providers require from Key Stage 4 qualifications? Are there any subjects that are compulsory or desired for specific courses?
- Teachers – students should speak directly with their teachers. Session 1 tutors, subject teachers and Heads of Department will be happy to answer questions and provide advice about future prospects. We are here to help!

If you have any further questions about this process or the above arrangements, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Academy ([sfletcher@tca.shirelandcat.net](mailto:sfletcher@tca.shirelandcat.net)).

Yours sincerely,

*S Fletcher*

Mr S Fletcher  
**Assistant Principal**