

Dear parents/carers of Year 9 students

Re: Y10 Curriculum 2021-22

As we move through the Spring Term we are working hard to plan for next September with regards to the curriculum and qualifications that our current Year 9 students will study when they begin in Year 10 in September 2022.

Throughout years 7 to 9 the curriculum at Ark Charter offers all students a broad and balanced diet of a wide range of subjects and areas of study but also a range of learning styles. The content that our students' study and the skills that they develop form the foundations of the GCSE and other vocational qualifications that students will be awarded at the end of Year 11.

The Year 9 options process allows students the chance to choose which courses they will continue with to form their Year 10 and 11 curriculum and timetable. Through this process we aim to personalise and support learning for all students by:

- Offering an exciting and wide-ranging curriculum
- Providing students with choices of courses to study
- Providing high quality and impartial advice & guidance for all students to educate them about the choices available.

In order that our students can make informed choices we all have a role to play; teachers, parents and members of the local community. What follows will give you further information about the curriculum that students will have access to in September and the activities that will give students and parents' information to make the right curriculum choices for them.

### **Year 10 Curriculum for September 2022**

- All students will study the compulsory core curriculum of Maths, English, Science, RE and either History or Geography. Students currently studying a language will continue to study this as part of the compulsory core curriculum.
- Students will all complete programmes of study in the compulsory subjects of PE and Personal Development (including PSHE, Citizenship, Study Skills and SRE).
- Students then have a range of options to choose to fill two time slots on their timetable. The two options can be selected from a wide range of subjects and types of qualification, including both GCSE, BTEC and Technical Award qualifications.

Ark Charter strongly believes that education is not a 'one size fits all' system. We believe that all students need a broad and balanced curriculum to give them a mix of academic, creative, practical and social skills to fit them for life in the fast-moving world of the 21st century. Our aim is such that each student will be able to follow a timetable which is both broad and balanced both in terms of the range of subjects they study but also with regard to the learning style involved.

During the process of allocation of options choices please understand that while we will do our utmost to enable your child to follow their preferred personalised learning plan it may not, in a small number of cases, be possible e.g., if a course is vastly oversubscribed or only a very small number of students choose a course.

Between now and the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 there will be a programme of support and guidance for Year 9 to help them make their options choices.



**Ark Charter Academy**

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- Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> January, an Ark Charter Y10 Curriculum Guide will be sent home with all year 9 students.
- On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January a page containing links to videos and presentations giving information about all of our Year 10 subjects will be made available for students and their families to watch via the school website.
- A video presentation explaining how the options process works, the difference between GCSE and vocational qualifications and advice on how to make good choices will also be made available at this time.
- On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January we will have two Q&A sessions for parents via zoom one at 4.30pm and another at 6pm. Parents can attend the zoom session to learn more about how the options process works and how best to support their child. Links for these sessions will be shared with parents shortly.
- Throughout this half term, if students and parents/carers have any questions about options subjects these can be emailed to individual subject teachers or our Careers Lead, Mrs. Riches o.riches@charteracademy.org.uk – we will aim to answer any queries you might have that will help you to make the best subject choices for our students.
- During lessons Year 9 teachers will also explain how the subjects they are currently studying form the foundation of courses in Year 10 and will give time for students to ask questions and see examples of students work.
- Every student in year 9 will be offered an individual meeting with our Careers Lead who will provide impartial advice and guidance to support students with navigating the options process.
- On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February we will then have our Year 9 parents evening. Parents will be able to book appointments with subject teachers to find out how students are progressing in their Year 9 subjects but will also be able to ask questions about the Year 10 subjects on offer. Subject Leaders for subjects not currently studied in Year 9 (e.g., Business, Computer Science and Food Nutrition and Preparation) will also be available for appointments should parents/carers have any queries not yet answered.
- Students will be asked to complete their options form online. They will be provided with time in a computer room during tutor time to facilitate this. All option forms must be completed by the **options deadline on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. Students may change their options form if submitted before the deadline by emailing Mrs. Riches o.riches@charteracademy.org.uk.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support in ensuring our Year 9 students make informed curriculum choices.

Kind regards

Mrs. Morey  
Vice Principal



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