



Woodside High School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, at Woodside students do not choose their GCSE options until they are in Year 9. However, we still believe in trying to create as personalised a curriculum as possible for students.

Our aim is to allow our **current Year 8 students** the chance to shape their curriculum for next year by allowing them to focus on a broad range of subjects as they start to explore their future interests and prepare themselves for their GCSE options in a year's time.

To enable this to happen, we have an Elective curriculum with a wide range of stimulating courses. These allow students to have a deep learning experience which will prepare them well for future GCSE studies. Your child will study these courses for the duration of Year 9.

The Year 9 curriculum next year will consist of: English, Maths, Science, PE, History, Geography, PRS and French/Spanish. In addition, students will choose three subjects from the range of Elective courses outlined below. To ensure that your child has a broad curriculum, they will study 1 Elective from each of the three Elective blocks: Arts, STEM & Free Electives.

Below is a provisional list of the Electives that we will look to offer:

Arts Electives	STEM Electives	Free Electives
Latin	Planetary Science	Archaeology
Photography	Motorsport & Automotive Engineering	Dance Leaders Award
Journalism	Physiopathology	Broadcasting
Classics	Stock Market Trading	Turkish & Kurdish Cultural Studies
Make	Accounting	Debating & Public Speaking
Painting, Printing & Pottery	Enterprise	Novel Writing
Music Production	Architectural Design	Film Studies
Community Theatre	Interior Design & Furniture Design	Sports Journalism
Theatrics	Mechanical Engineering	Melting Pot
Mandarin	Textiles	Politics, Philosophy & Economics
Art History	One World, One Planet	Adulting
Jewellery Design		Activism and Elections
		British Sign Language & Deaf Awareness

Cont/d.

Head Teacher: Ms Gerry Robinson



To introduce these new Elective courses, we would usually run an Electives Fair at Woodside, however this is not possible in the current climate. To help support your child in making their choices we will be providing the following:

- Elective course overview pack outlining the details of each course will be sent home the week of May 18th.
- Elective course overviews and short videos describing the courses will be available online from May 18th. <https://www.woodsidehighschool.co.uk/Elective-Curriculum/>
- An online Q&A Assembly will be held for all students and parents/carers on Thursday June 4th at 4pm. Mr Cain-Reed will send out more details nearer the time.

The subject overviews will also contain the contact details of the teacher that will be running the course. This will enable you to find out more about each of the courses should you wish. The process has been designed to enable students to make informed decisions based on their own interests and aspirations. Having conversations with your child about these interests and their potential choices will help them make an informed decision. Students will be asked to choose their top 3 preferences from each Elective block. They will be asked to provide their Elective choices via a phone interview which will take place from June 8th. They will be notified of their time slot nearer the time. It is essential that your child can access their school e-mail account and checks their inbox regularly. If your child cannot check their e-mail for any reason, please contact Mr Cain-Reed via e-mail: daniel.cain-reed@woodsidehighschool.co.uk, or leave a message with the school to be called back.

We will try to accommodate your child's choices wherever possible. If there are more students than we have places then we will allocate the places to those students who had it as a higher priority choice. Students therefore do need to think carefully about their order of preference on their option choices.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Cain-Reed.

Yours sincerely,

T Rollings

Ms T Rollings
Deputy Headteacher