



# Brine Leas School

## An Academy

Believe, Learn, Succeed

January 2018

Dear Students,

Year 9 marks a significant life decision for you and your family. For the first time you have the opportunity to personalise which subjects you hope to study at school. There are a bewildering number of different qualifications on offer, as well as different subjects. All GCSE qualifications are now reformed so the grading will be 9 to 1. At the end of this process, which you may find referred to as IAG (Impartial Advice and Guidance), it is hoped that all of you will have chosen appropriate courses that they will both be interested and successful in. At the same time, the choices may need to be linked to any future career you have in mind.

All students have a broad curriculum guaranteed through the core curriculum. In addition the option choices should also, for most of you, fulfil the requirements of the EBacc qualification.

It is quite scary to consider, but when you retire, perhaps at the age of 70, it will be 2073. The world is changing very rapidly and it will be increasingly unusual for a person to remain in the same job for all their working life. Many jobs that you could do will not exist at the moment; who had ever heard of an IT Consultant 40 years ago or a lifestyle guru 15 years ago?

The Options process is one which is undertaken over a number of months and your teachers are committed to trying to help you get onto the right courses for your style of learning and your future plans. Appropriate staffing appointments will be made in line with Options choices and therefore once group sizes are established, it is very difficult to change the choices made. Given such a lengthy process, we would not encourage any of you to change a course once study has begun.

At the end of this process it is hoped that you will have made the right decisions. If you have any concerns in the meantime, please talk to your teachers, Mr Ward (Year 9 Progress Manager) or Mrs O'Neill (Assistant Headteacher) who are running the Options programme.

I am very grateful to all the staff who have contributed to this booklet. It is a large undertaking and I hope that you will find the information both useful and informative.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all every success with your new courses at KS4.

Yours faithfully

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Headteacher

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