

March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re. Year 9 Virtual Options Evening Monday 15th March 2021 & Wednesday 17th March 2021

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout what has been a very challenging academic year for pupils, parents, staff and everyone connected to Haughton Academy. As always, your support is very much appreciated.

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, the Year 9 'Options Evening' is being switched to a virtual event where pupils and parents will be able to make online appointments with staff, regarding the options choices that pupils are thinking of taking in respect of their Key Stage 4 studies.

Pupils and parents will be able to make online appointments with available staff on either of two allocated afternoons / evenings. These are **Monday 15th March 4:00pm – 6pm** and **Wednesday 17th March 3:30pm – 6pm.**

We will be confirming via social media and via the school website when the appointment booking system will open up. We aim for this to be on **Wednesday 10th March.** As soon as the booking system opens up, pupils and parents will be able to make bookings with staff that they would like to talk to. Following reading / viewing all of the information that will be sent out in advance of the event (see below), I would urge for you to make appointments with staff to further investigate course suitability, requirements etc.

Prior to this on **Tuesday 9th March,** all information will be sent out to pupils and parents (via the various social media platforms / website etc). This will include:

- Introductory presentation (this would normally be shown at the event when held in the academy)
- The virtual options booklet (which highlights the courses that the academy will be offering and gives an insight into all the key information)
- Individual pupil preference sheets (for choosing their options based on the allocated pathway that each pupil has been placed within)
- Course videos (some subjects have recorded short presentations regarding their courses to supplement the information in the option booklet)
- Information regarding the staff available on the allocated nights for appointments
- Instructions on how to make bookings

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Principal Haughton Academy
Jonathan Lumb B Ed (Hons) M Ed
E: jlumb@educationvillage.org.uk

Salters Lane South, Darlington, County Durham DL1 2AN
T: 01325 254000 F: 01325 254222
E: admin@educationvillage.org.uk

www.educationvillage.org.uk

In addition to receiving all the above information, each pupil will also receive a 'hard copy' of their individual option choice preference sheet in the post. This is the copy that should be completed and returned to school (either by handing direct to Mr. Bettney or through placing in the returns box that will be left at Pupil Reception)

I would like to emphasise that whilst every effort will be made to accommodate the preferred option choices of pupils, this cannot be guaranteed and as part of the process, pupils will select 'reserve' option choices (this is explained within the presentation and also highlighted on the individual option sheet preference forms).

Should you require any further information or have any further queries regarding options, please do not hesitate to contact either the Head of Year 9 (Mr. Cooper) on 01324 254000 (ext 2022) or email at mcooper@educationvillage.org.uk or alternatively myself directly on 01325 248143 or by email at jbettney@educationvillage.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Bettney
Deputy Head Teacher – Quality Of Education