



ABINGDON

From the Curriculum Director: Oliver Lomax

23 April 2021

TO THE PARENTS OF ALL SECOND YEAR PUPILS

Dear Parents,

PREFERENCE FOR THIRD YEAR SUBJECTS for September 2021

The purpose of this letter is to explain the curriculum which your child will be following in their third year at the school. This curriculum contains both compulsory and optional subjects. You will need to choose your child's preferences for two optional subjects.

Please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/UDuPxCvyCLjtrrX97> by **Tuesday 4 May**. The online form provides room for you to comment if you wish.

Hopefully the remote parents' evenings on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 April provided an opportunity to discuss these option subjects with your child's teachers. You could also contact their tutor, housemaster, or me (oliver.lomax@abingdon.org.uk). If your child has a change of heart after that date, please contact me and I will do my best to accommodate any changes.

The third year is important as a foundation year in terms both of GCSE courses and of wider issues. The curriculum is designed so that pupils follow a broad range of subjects. At the start of the fourth year there are further choices to be made, which reduce the number of subjects to be followed to GCSE examinations.

Students generally continue with their main language of either French or German into the third year. Additionally, they have the opportunity to learn another foreign language: Mandarin Chinese, German or Spanish.

I should mention that we have to reserve the right to abandon an optional subject if the numbers choosing it are so low as to make it uneconomic, and that sometimes we are unable to provide unusual subject combinations.

In the fourth year English, Mathematics, the sciences, a modern foreign language and Physical Education will all be compulsory. In addition, students choose three or four subjects to GCSE from a wide range, including Religious Studies, Geography, History, Art, Design Technology, a second modern language if they began it in the third year (Mandarin Chinese, French, German or Spanish), Latin, Ancient History, Ancient Greek, Electronics, Computer Science, Music and Drama. These subjects can be pursued in many combinations.

The 'Middle School Curriculum September 2021' document contains detail about each of the middle school subjects. It can be downloaded from the Abingdon curriculum page (<http://www.abingdon.org.uk/curriculum>).

Yours sincerely,

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