31st January 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

**Year 9 Guided Choices**

We are beginning the procedure of aiding pupils in Year 9 into making good option choices through our ‘Guided Choices’ process. All pupils at GTS choose **four** subjects to continue studying throughout Years 10 and 11, these are called their options. These compliment the five core GCSE subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and two Science GCSEs.

To guide pupils in their option choices the following will be happening:

* All Year 9 pupils attended a Guided Choices introduction assembly with Ms Royse, Deputy Headteacher, yesterday, during Citizenship time.
* The Guided Choices booklet is available on the school website. This supplies details about the process, how to choose options and a detailed description of the courses that are available to study post-14 at GTS. Please click on the link: [Guided Choices | Great Torrington School (gts.devon.sch.uk)](https://gts.devon.sch.uk/guided-choices-1/)
* All Year 9 Pupils are being supported in their choices through the Year 9 careers programme this term in Citizenship. Please take the time to discuss with your child about how their post-14 choices can set them on the right pathway to their chosen career. If you feel that your child would receive (from ABL – may or would benefit from/ is it due to PP, CIC etc? help from an appointment with our independent careers' advisor, please contact Mrs Leonard.
* As we are introducing a number of new and exciting options for September 2025 we are running an ‘Options Lite’ process this year. This is a simple survey where pupils can select the four subjects, they think they may like to study in years 10 and 11. This will allow us to ensure we have the right staffing to run all our post 14 offers. The deadline for this is 12th February 2025 and all pupils will be able to do this in the Computing lessons. They have been sent an email to their school account.
* Your child’s Progress Report will be available electronically from the 4th March 2025, using the SIMS Parent app. If you need any help with using the app or setting it up, please email: [help@gts.devon.sch.uk](mailto:help@gts.devon.sch.uk) . We will also provide you with a paper copy. This will have all the information about their current attainment and progress. The report will also state which pathway your child will be on; this determines which subjects they can choose in each of their four option blocks.
* The Guided Choices evening will take place on **6th March 2025 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm**, with the deadline for completing choices being the **20th March 2025**. This is an in-person event at GTS, and we encourage you to come and discuss the various courses with the subject staff. During the evening, there will be two presentations in the Drama Studio to explain the options process, one at 5:30pm and one at 6:30pm.
* **The deadline for pupils to have finalised their** **option choices is 21st March 2025.** Pupils select their options using SIMS Options. **Rest assured we DO NOT select options on a first come first served basis. All choices received by the deadline are treated the same.**

**A summary of the key dates are below:**

•**12th February 2025:** Options Lite Closed

•**6th March 2025:**Guided Choices Evening

•**20th March 2025**: Deadline for pupils to complete SIMS options.

•**30th April 2025**: Options allocated are shared with pupils and parents/carers

•**23rd May 2025**: last day to discuss option changes with Ms Royse

I will be sending out more information about making final option choices after half term.

We hope you and your child will have all the information needed to make the best possible choices for post-14 study, and we look forward to seeing you on the **6th March 2025.**

Yours faithfully,

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Ms J Royse

*Deputy Headteacher*