

YEAR 9 – MAKING CHOICES FOR YOUR FUTURE!

10 TIPS FOR MAKING THE BEST CHOICES FOR YOU

- **Do your research!** Think carefully about what you enjoy and find out what the course includes – you will spend 2 years studying these subjects! If you have studied the subject before don't assume you know what the GCSE course will include. Ask your teachers what topics you will be studying. If it is a new subject make sure you understand what it is all about.
- **Consider what YOU are like.** What are your hobbies and extra-curricular activities? If you are constantly drawing maybe art is a good idea, if you like watching science programmes maybe triple science is sensible (if available), if you are always in the sports hall maybe PE is right for you?
- **Reflect on how you like to learn.** Are you more practical and like coursework? Then BTECs or a college course (if available) may be right for you.
- **Think carefully about your future.** What might be useful or even essential to study? Research jobs and entry requirements here: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/default.aspx> and explore different careers here: <http://icould.com/watch-career-videos/>
- Are you interested in health care, engineering or science? Then studying triple science is sensible (if available).
- Some subjects are harder to pick up at college if you haven't studied them at GCSE so as well as thinking about what you *are* going to study, consider what you are *stopping* studying and how this might impact on your future options. For example you can't normally take a language at A Level if you didn't study it at GCSE.
- Listen to friends, family and teachers but remember YOU are the one studying and it is YOUR life it will affect so make sure it is YOUR choice.

REMEMBER

- Look at your chosen subjects and your GCSEs overall (including compulsory ones) – do you enjoy them? Are you likely to do well? Speak to teachers if unsure. Have you looked at the syllabus (the topics covered)? Is achievement measured by exams or controlled assessments? Which do you prefer?
- Most of all, do what you enjoy!
- Finally, if you have any questions you or your parents/guardians can contact your school's Careers Advisor.