

Dear Year 9 Students

### **The Pathways Process**

As you probably know, Year 9 is a time when you begin to consider the subjects which you will continue to study in Years 10 and 11. The decisions that you make will have a huge impact on your future. At SBL, we want to help you to get these choices right.

Hopefully, you have worked very hard at school up to now and you are in a position to do very well in Years 10 and 11. We will work closely with you and your parents/carers to ensure that you choose the subject pathway which is right for you as you enter your final two years in the main school before you move to a Post 16 option. We also want to ensure that this pathway allows you to gain maximum reward from all of the effort that you have put into your learning since you were first in primary school.

Hopefully, all of you will be very ambitious. Many of you will want to go to Post 16 after Year 11 has finished. A significant number of students will want to give themselves a chance of going to University or College after Post 16. Most of you will do this by going on to studying 'A' Level subjects or other similar qualifications. Some of you will also want to seek apprenticeship opportunities, which is another really strong option that you might be able to take.

You may also want to go to one of the colleges in the area. If you want to do, this then you will also need to get the best grades possible in your Y10/11 courses here at SBL as there will be a great deal of competition for these places from other young people in other schools across the local area.

**The decisions that you make early in 2019 will have a big impact on your future and we want to help you to get this right.**

On our first Friday back, you will have an assembly to discuss the options process for next year. In our assembly we will give you: 1) an understanding of the process and 2) help to understand why this year is so important for your future and the importance of making sensible subject choices. We will also discuss 3) the importance of your attitude and your personal ambition in terms of being successful into the future.

In the assembly we will also discuss:

- The research and thinking that **you** can do **now** to better understand the world **you** will move into as a young adult.
- The support you will get in school regarding careers advice.
- The pathways that you will be offered in terms of subject choices.
- How your options decisions will shape your future direction and thinking.
- Your next steps after Year 11.

We will shortly be publishing details of the options process for you and your parents/carers so that you can start to plan for your future.

There are a range of jobs that you could do into the future, companies that you can work for as well as universities and colleges where you could study. **You** need to start thinking about the types of challenges and opportunities that **you** would like in the future and what kinds of things **you** might like to do. Whatever happens, you will receive the support that you need to make these decisions. You only have to ask a member of staff if you are unsure.

You might also find it helpful to take a look at some of the websites below as you think about the future:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university/how-important-are-gcse-choices-when-it-comes-to-university>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/sectors>

<http://www.futuremorph.org/11-13/>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/qualifications>

Have an excellent holiday and all the very best for the new school year when we return.

Yours sincerely



Mr. White

**Vice Principal**