

HGR/JWO

8 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your engagement in the options process so far. There was a fantastic atmosphere during the options evening last night; it was great to hear so many positive conversations about options, choices and future plans.

The options form has now been sent to your child via their academy email address. Please encourage them to log in to their email account to access this over the weekend. The deadline for final submission of choices is Monday 18 March.

Prior to option choices being submitted, I wanted to add more detail about our pathways. Triple Science, French and Spanish are highly regarded qualifications that will be advantageous for further academic study therefore we encourage students to aspire to pursue these subjects. The pathways are linked to the English Baccalaureate.

Students that pursue the English Baccalaureate, which includes a foreign language, can demonstrate to future employers and educational institutions that they have knowledge of a curriculum that has been broad and balanced. The Sutton Trust, an educational charity which aims to improve social mobility and address educational disadvantage, conducted research that revealed that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths. A recent study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education.

We encourage all students to pursue a broad and balanced curriculum which includes EBacc qualifications however we recognise that this might not be their preferred choice or align with their aspirations.

Should you wish to discuss whether the EBacc and continued foreign language study is right for your child, please contact us: info@dartonacademy.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hannah Gregory
Assistant Principal