

THE BURTON BOROUGH SCHOOL

A Specialist Arts College



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11th January 2010

Year 9 PREFERENCES (y half)

Dear Parents/Carers

We are approaching a busy and very important period for your son/daughter who is currently studying in Year 9. This is the stage when students need to consider the subject menu of their future Year 10 and Year 11 courses and indeed the implications of this for their future learning, training and profession.

During the last few months we have been thinking about how we can develop our curriculum offer to best fit students and therefore **personalise learning**. Consequently we have restructured our preference offer which should allow students to build a course around key subjects linked to their aptitude, inclination and aspirations.

In addition to the wide and varied GCSE subjects offered there are also other exciting courses including the Creative and Media Diploma equivalent to 5 GCSE A*-C grades, BTEC in Science, PE and Art equivalent to 2 or 4 GCSE A*-C grades, an exciting package of vocational courses at TCAT, New College and a number of other providers on the Travel 2 Learn programme equivalent to 2 or 4 GCSE A*-C grades and Arts Twilight GCSE courses as an additional GCSE subject studied after school.

With so many changes and new developments I am sure you will appreciate that INFORMATION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE is crucial. To help you and your children express appropriate PREFERENCES the following calendar has been developed:

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| 28 th January | Skills Fest Day at Telford International Centre YEAR 9 PREFERENCE EVENING for parents to see the Preference Form, KS4 Preference Booklet, understand the Preference process and collect a package of support information. There will also be a Diploma Desk, Travel 2 Learn Desk, Year Leader Desk and Preferences Help Desk available at the end of the evening |
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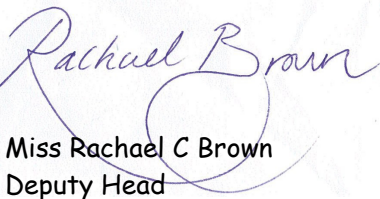


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| 1 st -12 th Feb | Talks to year 9 students about courses by Heads of Learning Area |
| 5 th February | Year 9 monitoring sent home |
| 23 rd February | YEAR 9 PARENTS EVENING An opportunity to speak to teachers, Travel 2 Learn Providers, Diploma Desk, Learning Support Desk, BTEC Work Skills Desk, Preferences Help Desk |
| 1 st March | Preference forms completed and returned to Miss Clark |
| 1 st -5 th March | Student interviews with Miss Clark Travel 2 Learn Application forms sent home to parents |

The role of parents during this difficult but exciting period is of course very important and you will probably find it necessary to advise and support you son/daughter so that they make the right choices as it is difficult to change subjects in September particularly when classes are full. I therefore urge you to attend the **Year 9 PREFERENCE EVENING** with your son/daughter where the details of the subject and the Preference process will be made clear and you will receive package of support information for every subject offered and help desks which will be available at the end of the evening. This will take place on **Thursday 28th January at 7:00pm** in our school hall (due to large numbers attending the Preference Evening this year the event will be held on two evenings and the x half of the year will be attending on Wednesday 27th January, if it is not possible for you to attend on Thursday 28th evening you are welcome to attend on Wednesday 27th evening but I sure you understand that I need to keep changes to minimum - please make date change on return slip if necessary)

Please complete the reply slip below indicating how many seats you will require and return it to your son/daughter's tutor by Wednesday 20th January.

Yours sincerely



Miss Rachael C Brown
Deputy Head

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YEAR 9 PREFERENCE EVENING REPLY SLIP (Y half) RETURN TO TUTOR BY 20TH JANUARY

Please complete and return to your son / daughter's form tutor.

Pupil Name: Tutor Group:

Number of seats required: (max 3 seats)

I will be able to attend the Preference Evening on **Thursday 28th January**

Signed Parent/Carer