

24 March 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you to confirm the structure of the Year 9 curriculum for 2021/2022 and also clarify the choices students have to make regarding their studies next year. Students will study the key areas of the National Curriculum: English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Languages, Technology and the Arts. These subjects form a broad and balanced education that prepares students for the next stage of their academic journey and, further ahead, higher education and the world of work.

In order to recognise their work across Years 7, 8 and 9, students will be working towards the achievement of the 'STS Baccalaureate'. Year 9 will include a focussed end-of-year assessment which will result in the award of the Baccalaureate. Students will receive a certificate following these assessments confirming their level of attainment in each Baccalaureate subject. The certificate will also list all subjects studied during Key Stage 3, thus providing a valuable document for students to show to colleges, employers and other providers in the future.

Please note that Key Stage 4 Options, where students select their GCSE subjects for study in Years 10 and 11, is a separate process that takes place in Year 9. For now, students are only making choices in two curriculum areas.

The Baccalaureate is comprised of six **Core** subjects that will be studied by **all** students:

English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Languages*

**in Year 9 students continue with the language they are currently studying*

The other two subjects studied will be determined by students' choices and are, therefore, referred to as the Baccalaureate Specialisms. The specialisms are:

Technology and the Arts

Students will need to choose with the help of parents/carers which subjects they wish to study from the choices provided in each of the Baccalaureate Specialism areas. Further information regarding this process, along with the form students need to complete, are included with this letter and can be found on the school website:

<https://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk/906/key-stage-3-baccalaureate>

I appreciate that some of these subjects will be new to students and that you may need to seek advice. The relevant Heads of Department are ready to answer any queries you may have about these subjects:

- for queries about the Arts please contact Mr Healy at bruce.healy@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk;
- for queries regarding Technology please contact Mr Mugford at robert.mugford@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk.

Each student's curriculum in Year 9 will also incorporate lessons in Computer Science, PE and Health.

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Kent CT13 0FA

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HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD

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Please indicate your son/daughter's preferred choices on the form provided with this letter and send it via email to Mrs Holland at the following address: sam.holland@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk.

If you are unable to complete the form electronically you may post a copy of the slip clearly labelled "For the Attention of Mrs Holland" or drop it off at the school reception. In order to plan for the next academic year, could I please have your preferred choices by **12.00 noon on Wednesday 21 April**.

I am confident that all students will be able to study the subjects they have selected next year. In the unlikely event that this is not possible, I will personally contact the parents of any student who this affects.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me using the contact details below if you have any general questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Sharples". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr S Sharples
Deputy Headteacher

Email: simon.sharples@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01304 610054