

12 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Year 9 Options Update - Taster Lessons and 1:1 Interviews**

I am writing to update you on the next steps in the Year 9 GCSE Options process.

**GCSE-style taster lessons (from Monday 19 January)**

From Monday 19 January, students will take part in GCSE-style taster lessons for two weeks. During this time, your child will experience a range of subjects in a GCSE-style format. These sessions are designed to help students understand what each course involves and support them in making well-informed choices about their future study.

**Options booklet**

Today, every student has been given a hard copy of the Options Booklet, which provides detailed information about all available subjects. Please take time to go through the booklet with your child, discussing:

- the content and expectations of each course
- your child's strengths, interests and future aspirations
- any subjects they may wish to explore further

**1:1 guidance interviews (from week beginning Monday 9 February 2026)**

To further support students, we will also be offering **one-to-one interviews** with a member of the **Senior Leadership Team (SLT)** or a **Head of Department (HoD)**. These interviews will begin during the week commencing **Monday 09 February 2026** and will provide personalised guidance to help students make confident choices.

We recognise that this is an important point in your child's education, and we are committed to ensuring every student has the information and support they need to thrive.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kwarsop@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:kwarsop@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr Warsop – Assistant Principal – Quality of Education**