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Headmistress: Mrs Rebecca Dougall BA MA

2 February 2018

Dear Parents

### Subject Options in Year 9, 2018-19

As your daughter moves into Middle School next year, the shape of the curriculum changes to reflect pupils' individual areas of interest. All Year 9 pupils study a core curriculum which includes English, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, history, geography, RPE, computer science, Spanish, a second modern language (German, Mandarin or French), PE and Personal Development.

In addition to these core subjects, your daughter has the opportunity to take three further subjects, one from each of the blocks below.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Art	Art	Ceramics
Ceramics	DT	DT
DT	Drama	Drama
Drama	Food and Nutrition	Greek
Music	Latin	Food and Nutrition
		Latin

Subject courses in Year 9 provide a foundation for (I)GCSEs but, with the exception of Latin and Greek, pupils are able to choose any subject that St Helen's offers for (I)GCSE even if they have not taken it as an option in Year 9. Please note that we do not offer Food and Nutrition as a GCSE course.

These subject options were explained to your daughter this morning by Mr Morris, our Director of Studies. She was given a booklet which outlines the course content for each of the subjects and reiterates the key points of Mr Morris' presentation, which she will bring home to discuss with you. In making the decision girls should consider their ability in, and enjoyment of, the subjects, which course content appeals to them and which options would provide a challenging combination of subjects to develop their knowledge and skills. Your daughter may well wish to talk to her teachers and Form Tutor about her decision and you will also have the opportunity to discuss these choices with your daughter's subject teachers at the Parents' Meeting after half term.

Your daughter will need to select one subject from each block, and indicate a 4<sup>th</sup> subject choice which can be from any of the 3 blocks. The 4<sup>th</sup> subject choice will be used if it should not prove possible to timetable your daughter's 3 choices and it should be chosen as something she will be happy to study. It is unlikely we will be able to accommodate requests for changes after choices are submitted.

The choice of subjects will in no way affect which form group your daughter will be in next year.

Your daughter will be sent an E-mail on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February with instructions on how to make her choices electronically. As part of that process she will be asked to enter a parent's E-mail address and confirmation of the choices that she has asked for will be sent automatically to this address. If you do not appear to have received this please check your spam filter.

Any logistical questions or problems with making the choices can be directed to Mr Morris ([cmorris@shsk.org.uk](mailto:cmorris@shsk.org.uk)).

Please make sure that your daughter makes her choices by **the final deadline of 1pm Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March**, although we have encouraged her to make her choices by the end of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March if at all possible to avoid any last minute issues.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's Form Tutor.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mrs K Taylor  
Head of Lower School  
[ktaylor@shsk.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@shsk.org.uk)