

23rd January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Year 8 Options

As you are aware from Mrs Westerman's previous correspondence, Year 8 will begin their Key Stage 4 programme next academic year and therefore the Year 8 Options process will begin this half term, when we will ask all Year 8 students to choose four courses to study during Years 9, 10 and 11. One of these courses will be formally assessed at the end of Year 10 whilst all the others will continue until the end of Year 11. The range of courses on offer to students recognises that each individual is different with different skills, qualities, ambitions and preferred learning styles. We offer a variety of subjects ranging from those that are very practical to those which are very academic and assessed only by work completed under exam conditions.

In Year 9 the timetable is made up of the 'Core' subjects that all students take, plus their 4 option subjects. For most students the Core subjects are: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Statistics, Combined Science and PE.

Key Dates

1 st February	Y8 Options Assembly for students
1 st February	Y8 Options booklets distributed to students
1 st February	Y8 Options and Parents' Evening with teachers
1 st March	Deadline for submission of 'Making Your Choices' form

What you should do now

- Help your child to identify subjects that they are good at, find enjoyable and which are recommended for them by their teachers.
- Come to the Evening on Thursday 1st February to meet your child's teachers and attend the options talk in the Main Hall. There will be two identical half hour talks at 5pm and 6pm. Please indicate which talk you will attend. You will have the chance to ask the teachers and Learning Team Leaders any student-specific questions related to the options available. Please encourage your child to make appointments to see their teachers.

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- Check your child's targets and progress in lessons and make sure their choices are aspirational but achievable.
- Look at their options booklet with your child and use the Internet where appropriate to obtain further information.
- Studying a language isn't compulsory but worth considering and discussing with your child. Not only does language study help develop important skills, a GCSE in a modern foreign language is highly regarded by universities, particularly Russell Group Universities and employers alike. There will be more information about this available on the evening.
- Help your child to shortlist ONE choice and TWO reserves from each list.

We look forward to seeing you at the Information Evening next week. If you are unable to attend, the slides from the Options talk will be available on the School Website in the Curriculum section. A copy of the Options Booklet given to students will also be found on the website after the evening.

Kind regards



Sarah Brennan
Key Stage 3 Leader

Please return this form to Student Services by Monday 29th January

NAME OF STUDENT: _____ TUTOR GROUP: _____

I will be attending the Y8 Options Evening on 1st February and will attend the talk at

5.00pm 6.00pm

Signed: _____