



2nd March 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

Change to the GCSE Options Process

After much discussion, we have made the decision to revert back to completing the GCSE options process in Year 9. This change will apply to our current Year 7 and Year 8 students, who will now decide their options in Year 9 rather than in Year 8. This will not affect students in Year 9.

This change will ensure all our students have the opportunity to study a wider range of subjects including more time to explore creative subjects and to allow for the development of a deep knowledge of a broad range of subjects. This will also allow students to make a more informed choice about subjects they have started at high school such as those in the Modern Foreign Language and Creative departments.

Our students are also benefiting from a high-quality careers programme supported by industry partners, colleges and universities. This means they will be in the best possible position to choose subjects which link to career pathways they wish to explore in the future.

We are committed to supporting our students' welfare including their emotional wellbeing. The extra learning time prior to beginning all their GCSE courses, will allow them to develop the necessary resilience to compliment a strong skill set over a broad range of disciplines. We feel this will result in happier students ready for the rigour the challenge of GCSE and BTEC offers.

We appreciate your continued support. Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you require further information.

Yours faithfully,

Miss L Morgan
Interim Deputy Headteacher
Achievement and Standards