



March 2019

Dear Parent or Carer,

Year 8 Options Evening Thursday 21st March 2019, 6pm – 7pm

Year 8 students are about to enter a very important phase in their education and the time is fast approaching when options have to be made which will shape their programme of study in years 9, 10 and 11.

Our KS4 structure has been designed to enable our students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum which consists of a number of subjects; some of these are compulsory whilst others are chosen from a range of options. During the next two weeks, year 8 students will be receiving information, advice and guidance to help them make sound choices based on their own interests, abilities and ambitions. As parents and carers, your help in supporting this process is essential.

Following our careers week, Year 8 students enjoyed an options taster day this week exploring a selection of courses available to them and learning how these subjects link to future career paths. They will be advised about the Options process in assembly next week when options booklets will be distributed with descriptions of the courses offered. This will be followed by the options form next Thursday for you to discuss and fill out with your child.

In order to support you with this process, we would like to invite you to our **Options Evening from 6pm – 7pm on Thursday 21st March**. There will be a talk in the Lecture Theatre outlining the options process, the framework within which choices must be made for your child and information about the increased challenge of new GCSE exams. This will be followed by an opportunity to circulate with staff, including our careers advisor, who will be on hand to offer further support and guidance, where more specific information about particular courses can be gathered.

Timetabling and staffing the options is a complex process and whilst we try our best to accommodate options, occasionally this proves impossible. It is with this in mind that we also ask you to highlight reserve choices in case any courses become unavailable.

We know this is an exciting time for our students who will be eager to find out their allocated timetables and we hope to achieve this before the end of May. For the moment though, our main priority is to ensure that all our students are effectively guided and supported through the option process in readiness for successful years 9, 10, 11 and onwards. We look forward to meeting you.

Yours faithfully,

Miss L Morgan
Assistant Headteacher
Achievement and Standards