



25th February 2022

Dear parent,

YEAR 8 OPTIONS PROCESS

For the last five years the school has adopted a policy where students pick their GCSE/BTEC options at the end of Year 8. As a school we have conducted a review of our curriculum structure which has involved consultation with teachers, students, parents, governors and the trust. After reviewing all the comments, I have made the decision that all option choices will now take place in Year 9 and not Year 8.

The reasons for this are:

- I currently have concerns regarding the amount of teaching time that some subjects have in Year 11. Currently, options subjects such as Languages, Music, PE and many others only have 2 hours a week of contact with students. The feedback from both staff and students suggest that this is insufficient.
- Due to COVID students have not currently had sufficient exposure to the curriculum that we offer in Year 7 and 8, and I therefore feel that students do not have enough knowledge to make effective decisions about options that they should take.
- Studying a wider curriculum in Year 9 will allow students to have a wider knowledge of different subjects which will help them in their future life, regardless as to what they study to GCSE level.

This therefore means that your child will now choose their GCSE/BTEC options towards the end of Year 9. Of course, students will receive the same quality information and guidance when these important decisions need to be made.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns regarding the content of this letter then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Hibbard
Headteacher

