



4th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 8 students,

I am writing to provide an overview of our phased Key Stage 4 options process for Year 8, along with the key dates for this academic year.

Date	Focus
November 2019 to March 2020	University taster days for every Year 8 student
23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Heads of Department present subject overview at Year 8 assemblies
Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	1:1 guidance meeting for all students with a member of the Leadership Team
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Creative Day 2 careers focus
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 options evening
4 <sup>th</sup> March onwards	Optional drop-in sessions for parents and carers (email will be sent to confirm how to book)
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 parents' evening
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Deadline for return of all completed option forms

Students will study core subjects throughout the GCSE curriculum. These are:

- Mathematics GCSE
- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Science (Combined Science GCSE or Triple Science (Biology GCSE, Chemistry GCSE and Physics GCSE)\*)
- Philosophical, Political and Personal Studies (including statutory SRE)
- Physical Education

Students are invited to choose an additional four subjects from:

- *Computer Science*
- *French*
- *Geography*
- *History*
- *Latin*
- *Spanish*
- *Turkish*
- Art
- Citizenship
- Design and Technology: Graphics
- Design and Technology: Resistant Materials
- Drama
- Hospitality and Catering (BTEC Level 2 – GCSE equivalent)
- Media and Film\*\*
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education\*\*
- Religious Studies
- Textiles

1. \*Students will no longer choose Triple Science as part of the options process but will cover a common science curriculum in Year 9. At the end of Year 9, students will either follow the Triple Science pathway or the Combined Science pathway.
2. \*\*Both of these subjects offer a route to a Level 2 course from the start of Year 10 – 1) from GCSE PE to Cambridge National in Sport Studies or 2) from GCSE Film Studies to Creative iMedia award.
3. It is compulsory to choose at least one of the subjects in italics.

You will receive a guidance booklet, subject information and a blank options form on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at our Options Evening. The process has been designed to ensure that students have access to a wide range of subject combinations. Our aim is to give first choices, but we cannot always guarantee this.

We look forward to seeing you at both our Options and Parents' Evenings.

Yours faithfully

Lucy Bryant.

DHT Curriculum

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