

Our Ref: KFA/422.LCO

18th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 8 GCSE Options Launch

Year 8 students have important decisions to make about their option choices. Due to current Covid restrictions, we will not be hosting our traditional options evening event and instead, we will be launching the process to parents and students during the week of the 31st January, and subsequently hosting a number of events to support students and parents as they choose their GCSE courses.

All students will study:

- English
- Maths
- Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Core PE
- PSHE
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Inspirational Futures

The majority of students will study four option subjects, one of which must be either History or Geography. The option process spans over several weeks.

Key dates for Parents are:

- Thursday 3rd February: Virtual options evening at 6pm. This will talk parents through the process. A link will be emailed to all parents.
- Thursday 10th February there will be a virtual parent's evening from 4pm – 6.30pm. Parents can make appointments with subject staff to discuss GCSE subjects. We would recommend accessing the SharePoint page with your child before you make these appointments as some questions that you may have, could be answered on the SharePoint. The link for this SharePoint will be emailed to students.

Key dates for Students are:

- Tuesday 1st February: Year 8 will attend a GCSE Option Process assembly
- Friday 4th February a SharePoint page will be made available to all students which will contain information about all of the courses that we are offering and it contains subject specific "Streams" for you to watch.
- Monday 7th February – Friday 18th February: subject taster sessions will be available in some subjects during lunchtimes and after school, there will be a timetables of sessions published in the assembly. Students will need to sign up to these sessions.

- Friday 18th February - Friday 4th March: The options process will open; this will be accessed through the SharePoint page. We do not allocate subjects on a first come, first served basis so we are giving you time to make this important decision.

Option choices must be made by Friday, 4th March. Students must choose five subjects that they would like to study at GCSE, they will then be offered four of these subjects to study. Due to some timetabling restraints, in some extreme cases we may have to ask your child to choose another subject. We would like students to have a broad and balanced curriculum and we encourage students to pick a variety of subjects from different academic areas.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Farrow

Katy Farrow

Assistant Headteacher Curriculum