

January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Y8 GCSE Options Process 2026

It is the stage of the academic year when we launch the GCSE options process for Year 8. In the **fortnight commencing 19 January** Year 8 students will begin looking at the process of choosing subjects with their RHPD teachers. This is in preparation for the Options Process after half term.

All Year 8 students will be given an Options booklet which outlines the school's approach to Key Stage 4 study, the curriculum and details all the different subjects available. They will bring these booklets home before the half term break. Additionally, we will post the booklet and a copy of the options form on the school website and they are attached below. On the evening of **Thursday 26 February** I will be providing a presentation for parents and students on the practicalities of the process itself. There will be two identical talks at 5.30pm and 6.30pm. **Outside of the talks, subject teachers will be available at stalls to explain their subject course between 5.00pm and 6.30pm.** A recording of the presentation will be available on the website after the event. On **Friday 27 February** between 3.15pm and 4.15pm there will be senior staff available in the LRC to answer any questions raised by this presentation. Please feel free to drop-in to discuss any questions you may have. The Year 8 parents' evening then follows on **Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 March** which is a further opportunity to discuss subject choices.

Year 8 students will then need to complete an options form. This form will be handed to students by tutors in the week beginning **23 February**. The deadline for the completed forms to be returned to tutors is **Thursday 12 March 2025**. We need all forms returned by this deadline so that we can allocate groups and organise staffing and resources. However, if students change their minds following the deadline they are welcome to request an adjustment to their options which we will accommodate if possible. It is important to note that while most students will get their preferred option choices there will be instances where clashes in the timetable or excessive numbers, particularly in subjects where specialist rooms and equipment are necessary, mean that we will have to allocate reserve choices.

I hope this letter is helpful in outlining the options process and explaining what resources, materials and support will be available to students and parents throughout this important process.

Yours Faithfully,



Mr S Catt Mr B Francis
Deputy Headteacher Head of Year 8

Attachment: Options booklet and sample options form

