

January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **GCSE Options Process 2023**

It is the stage of the academic year when we launch the GCSE options process for Year 8. In the **fortnight commencing 6 February** Year 8 students will begin looking at the process of choosing subjects with their PD teachers. This is in preparation for the Options Process after half term.

All Year 8 students will be watching a presentation outlining those subjects which are 'new' at GCSE and which they won't have studied or studied briefly in Key Stage 3. In addition, each student will be given an Options booklet which outlines the school's approach to Key Stage 4 study and the curriculum and also details all the different subjects available. They will bring these booklets home before the half term break. Additionally, we will post the presentations and other materials on the school website from **Monday 6 February** for students and parents to use to help to find out more about individual subjects. On the evening of **Tuesday 21 February**, I will be providing a presentation for parents and students on the practicalities of the process itself and explaining the school's approach to the options process between 6.30 and 7pm. This will be a live virtual event, to which a link to the meeting will be sent out in advance (unfortunately, we are unable to hold this in school as there is a clash with examinations). A recording will be available on the website after the event. On **Wednesday 22 February** between 3.15 and 4.30pm there will be senior staff available in the LRC to answer any questions raised by this presentation (this is a change to the date published in the Options Booklet that your child will bring home). Amongst them will be Mr Aschettino and our Career's Manager, Ms Morris. Please feel free to drop-in to discuss any questions you may have. The Year 8 parents' evening then follows on **Wednesday 8 March** when, again, Ms Morris will have available slots for booking should you have further questions.

Year 8 students will then need to complete an options form. This form will be personalised and handed to students by tutors in the week beginning **20 February**. The deadline for the completed forms to be returned to tutors is **Friday 17 March 2023**. 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.

Additionally, many Year 8 students would have had some careers input this Wednesday (1 February) in their RHPD lesson on 'Future Jobs'. However, due to the Industrial Action, it will not be possible to deliver this in school. Therefore, I am providing a [link](#) to the materials for these students to access. Be reassured, that the main lessons focused on Options will be delivered when students are back in school.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zoe', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Zoe Sorrell  
**Deputy Headteacher**