



14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Year 8 Options: Managing Choices and Change

On **Wednesday 4th March** there is a Conference Day for all Year 8 students, when their GCSE choices will be outlined in detail and at which they will receive their KS4 booklets. On the evening of the same day we are holding an information meeting for parents/carers. This will begin at 6pm and we envisage that it will last for forty-five minutes.

Presentations will be given by Mr Jones (Deputy Headteacher) and by Mrs Clark (Head of Year 8). We will give information about the different options available to our students, explain how we enable them to make their choices and also outline the revised GCSE examinations which your son/daughter will take in 2023.

We offer our students **four** subject option choices due to the increased focus on the so-called English Baccalaureate subjects. The Government strongly recommends that **all** students take a foreign language **and** History or Geography at GCSE. Although we are not making these subjects compulsory, we **require** our students to study at least one of these subjects, and **recommend** that students consider taking both (a language **and** History or Geography).

This year, we would like students to make their options choice online. To enable this to happen students will set up a SIMS Online service account through their school email address. Your son/daughter will be shown how to do this during form time in the days following the Conference. Once students have chosen their options, parents/carers will be able to verify the choices before final submission. To do this you will also need a SIMS Online service account. A link will be emailed to your email addresses following the information evening, allowing you to do this. A help sheet on this process is also available here <https://waddesdonschool.com/curriculum/year-8-options/>.

The week after the conference and information evening, there is a **Year 8 Parents' Evening (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March)** which your son/daughter is invited to attend with you. This will give you the opportunity to discuss progress in all subjects.

We would be grateful if you could return the attached slip to indicate whether or not you are able to attend on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

The deadline for your son/daughter to submit his/her final option choices is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Jones  
Deputy Headteacher

Vanessa Clark  
Head of Year 8

**YEAR 8 INFORMATION EVENING AND PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING TO BE  
RETURNED TO THE THORP OFFICE**

Please tick to indicate you are attending these events

**PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING FOR THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM**  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March (6.00 – 6.45pm)

**PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING (WITH TEACHERS)**  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March (3.45 – 5.15pm and 5.45 – 7.30pm)

Student Name .....

Form .....

Signed  
(Parent/Carer)

R:/Year 8/19-20/Year 8 Options