



February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 8 Options: Managing Choices and Change

On **Thursday 14th March** Year 8 students will attend a morning conference, 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 Options Information Evening 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 Cahill (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 GCSE examinations which your son/daughter will take in 2027. Following the evening we will add a copy of the Options Booklet to the school website.

We ask students to make their option choices using an online MS Form. Students will need to choose **six subjects in order of preference**. They should carefully consider which options to choose by talking to parents and teachers and by reflecting on their progress at school. They will then be allocated **four subjects**. We endeavour to ensure that all students receive their preferred choices but, in a very small number of cases, it may not be possible for all of their subjects to come from their chosen six. In this instance, it will be discussed with students, parents/carers so that their final options meet their needs, skills and interests.

We offer our students **four** subject option choices due to the increased focus on the 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 **highly recommend** that students take both (a language **and** History or Geography).

A link to the options choices MS Form will be added to *ClassCharts* on the same day as the Options Conference. Students must be logged into their school Microsoft account to access this form. This is the same as their Microsoft Teams logon. Once logged in, students will need to choose **six subjects in order of preference**. They should carefully consider which options to choose by talking to parents and teachers and by reflecting on their progress at school. The deadline for them to make their final decision is Wednesday, 27th March.

The week after the conference and parent information evening, there is a **Year 8 Parents' Evening (Thursday 21st March)** which your son/daughter is invited to attend with you. This will give you the opportunity to discuss progress in all subjects to further support the decision-making process.

We would be grateful if you could complete this online MS form <https://forms.office.com/e/Gj4zHsNp0m> to indicate whether you are able to attend the Parent Information Evening on Thursday 14th March. There is no requirement for students to attend as they will have received the information during the day. However, should you wish them to attend with you, they must be wearing full school uniform.

The deadline for your son/daughter to submit their final option choices is Wednesday 27th March 2024.

Yours sincerely

Charlie Cahill
Deputy Headteacher

Vanessa Clark
Head of Year 8