



26th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 8 Options: Managing Choices and Change

Next week, on **Tuesday 3rd March** there is a Conference Day for all Year 8 students, which will begin the process of outlining and selecting GCSE choices. This is an important and exciting step in their education as students consider how their GCSE subjects will shape and impact their future at the school and beyond.

On the evening of the same day, we are holding an Options Information presentation for parents/carers. This will begin in the Hall at 6pm and we envisage that it will last for forty-five minutes.

Presentations will be given by Mr Cahill (Deputy Headteacher) and by Mr Dipple (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 outline the GCSE examinations which your son/daughter will take in 2029. 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** from these six choices. We endeavour to ensure that all students receive their preferred choices, but it may not be possible for all 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. Last year, all students were allocated subjects from their chosen six.

We offer our students **four** subject option choices to ensure breadth of study and opportunity at Key Stage 4, and to meet the Government requirements for school performance and progress. For this reason, **all** students are required to a foreign language **or** a humanity (History or Geography) at GCSE, and we **highly recommend** that students take both (a language **and** History or Geography). This will be made clear in the options choices form.

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. The order that students select their choices is important for the allocation process. Once they have selected their humanity/language option, students must put their first preference at the top and so on.

The week after the conference and information evening, there is a **Year 8 Parents' Evening (Thursday 12th 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 look forward to seeing you at the Options Information Evening at 6pm on Tuesday 3rd 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 his/her final option choices is Wednesday 25th March 2026.

Yours sincerely

Charlie Cahill
Deputy Headteacher

Matthew Dipple
Head of Year 8