



17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Earlier this week Year 8 tutors talked through the choices on offer to students for students in Year 9 and the curriculum changes we have made. Please read the information below that sets out the rationale, offer and process for Year 8 into Year 9 choices.

We think our students should have an opportunity to study a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 3. Our offer includes a wide range of core subjects alongside some choice from the Creative Arts and Design and Technology subjects. The intention of this is to allow greater time for all students to develop and experience a challenging curriculum that develops the critical skills and vocabulary necessary for them to grow into well rounded, curious, questioning and informed citizens.

By extending the option process to Year 9, students will make better informed choices for their GCSEs and will have a more solid foundation for learning. The autonomy offered in Design and Technology and Creative Arts subjects in Year 9 will help to support the process of making good choices. Students choose two Design and Technology and two Creative Arts subjects to study in the first three terms of Year 9, then narrowing this choice to one Design and Technology and one Creative Arts subject for the remainder of Year 9.

Y8 curriculum and choices for Y9:

Core:	Choices:
English Maths Science MFL RE and PSHE Geography History PE (students may opt to study Dance as part of their PE curriculum)	<p>Choice 1* – 2 hrs: Hospitality and Catering Design Technology Engineering Computing</p> <p>Choice 2* – 2hrs: Art Drama Music</p> <p>*Students choose 2 (specify 1st preference and 2nd preference) and study both between September and February half term, then select one of each of these from February.</p>

It is strongly advised that this final choice in February of Year 9 should, for those students wishing to take a Design and Technology and/or a Creative Arts at GCSE , be continued into Year 10.



After December in Year 9 students will make further decisions about their GCSE and BTEC subject options which will form their programme of study in Years 10 and 11. The KS4 offer will go beyond the choices students are making now. They will in Year 9 have the opportunity to experience new subjects available to them and to talk to teachers about the wider choice on offer in an options event. I will be sharing more information with you later on in the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about the Year 8 choices and the process. I will shortly be sharing a choices guide book that will help students understand more about the subjects on offer. With this booklet I will also share a choices form for students to complete with you.

Thank you for your support

Sara Fletcher

Vice Principal