



Headteacher: Mr D Reeve BSc (Hons)

 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

### Re: Options Process – Year 8

As a school we seek to continually evaluate our curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of our students. Our curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced and to maximise the outcomes for students and, as a result, their life chances. The educational landscape is ever changing and therefore our curriculum needs to change in order keep abreast of National initiatives. As many of you will be aware from articles in the national press there is a clear shift away from modular courses to linear ones where all exams are sat at the end of year 11. This places a heavy emphasis on students being able to recall information.

As a result of all of these changes we decided to change the way we structure our curriculum from September 2015. This will affect your son as he moves from year 8 into year 9. The new curriculum structure is as follows:

- We will retain a two year Key Stage 3 but revert back to a two year Key Stage 4. Year 9 will become a GCSE Foundation year where students will learn the skills and knowledge they require to successfully complete their GCSEs in Years 10&11
- Students will narrow down the number of subjects they will study in year 9 but will make their final GCSE subject choices to continue studying in Year 10

We would therefore like to invite you to an options evening to share with you in more detail the structure of the curriculum for your son in Year 9. The evening will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February. There will be two presentations in the School Hall; the first at 6:00 pm for parents and students of C, D and M Houses, the second at 7:00 pm for parents and students of R, T and W Houses.

Students will also attend information assemblies during w/b Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, where subject leaders will share with students the course overview and the benefits of taking their subject in Year 9 and beyond.

On **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** students and parents are invited to a Parents Evening to discuss the progress of students in all their subjects. This is an ideal opportunity to ask subject staff about your child's suitability to study subjects in Year 9 and to GCSE level and beyond.

Final choices must be submitted by **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** allowing a full six weeks for decision making.

Yours sincerely,

 Mr R J Wheatley  
 Head of Year
