

13 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Selection of KS4 courses – ‘Options’

As you are aware, we currently arrange our curriculum allowing for two years for KS3 and three years for KS4. This system has been in place for some time. However, much change has occurred within education – most notably the increasing demand in KS4 courses. Students are therefore finding it increasingly difficult to make the right choices at the end of a two year KS3 course. Some students find that some subjects are more challenging as a result.

We now plan to move to a five year curriculum model that enables staff to plan the curriculum from Year 7 to Year 11 without a ‘divide’ at the end of Year 8. This enables students to access age appropriate content and make good progress across a broad and balanced curriculum. It would also enable students to more fully understand the demands of the KS4 courses and what decisions they should make regarding their ‘Options’ to ensure they maximise their success at the end of Year 11.

Students will therefore benefit from delaying their GCSE choices until part way through Year 9.

This positive change will enable students to continue to experience the full range of subjects in Year 9. The subjects will be offered within a structure suitable for a Year 9 curriculum and will enable students to experience those subjects only experienced during KS4.

The time spent on the content of KS4 courses will therefore not have a negative impact on their outcomes at the end of Year 11 as the five year curriculum approach should enable progress to be made during the progression through Year 7 to Year 11.

Students will be given more information about their curriculum for next year in due course so that they can fully appreciate the benefits that this change will bring.

If you have any questions regarding the change to a five year curriculum, please contact the School.

****POSTPONED****

The Year 8 Progress Review Evening which was due to take place on Tuesday 17 March 2020 has now been postponed and will potentially take place in the Summer Term in readiness for Year 9. You will be advised of the date nearer the time.

Yours sincerely



Ms J Shorrock
Headteacher

