

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Many schools and academies are now offering students an extended Key Stage 4 curriculum. This means students will be starting their GCSE/BTEC courses at the beginning of year 9. Three years will give students a longer time on their Key Stage 4 examination courses and we firmly believe that this will further enhance students' learning, progress and achievement.

Over the following months, your son/daughter will be selecting the courses that they wish to continue to study throughout Key Stage 4. During this time they will receive information and guidance from their form tutor, their teachers and hopefully from you. Students and parents can also book an appointment with Bev Evans (our academy Careers Advisor) if you would like to discuss options linked to specific careers.

Information about all of the Key Stage 4 courses is in the options booklet that will shortly be available on the academy website and can be accessed by students at home. If you are unable to access this booklet and require a paper copy could you please contact the academy or send a note with your child to Mrs Davies. I would advise all students and parents to read through this information over the coming weeks. Choosing the correct combination of subject options is an important step and reading through the course outlines will assist in this respect.

The process they will go through is outlined below:

- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016** - Option process outlined to students during an assembly.
- **Week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017** - KS4 taster lessons to be taught to students in lessons and sessions arranged for students interested in finding out about Business Studies and Health and Social Care.
- **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January** - Trial option run: students will be given an option sheet (there are 7 different student pathways) to be filled in and handed back to progress tutors by **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**. This trial run is for us to gain an idea of the initial interest in subjects and determine which are viable to run; students can still change their mind at this stage.
- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Year 8 Parents Evening** – Parents and students have an opportunity to discuss option choices with teaching staff.
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March**- Students will be given their final option sheet.
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Year 8 Options Afternoon 2-6pm**. Students and parents to attend an appointment with a senior member of staff to discuss option choices. Final option sheets to be handed into progress tutors by **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March**.

Most students will continue to study English language, English literature, mathematics, science, technology, religious studies and PE. In addition, your child will also study geography or history and two further option subjects which they select from their given option sheet.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting Dr Mason (Vice Principal Key Stage 4) or me, here at the academy.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Davies  
Senior Leader Logistics