

30.10.17

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 progress tutor, their teachers and hopefully from you. Students and parents can also discuss options linked to specific careers and university courses with Bev Evans (Careers Advisor) and Tracey Beech (Aim Higher / Access Project co-ordinator) at the parental information evening on Wednesday 15th November.

Information about all of the Key Stage 4 courses is in the options booklet that will shortly be available on the academy website and a paper copy will be provided on the parental information evening. 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 30th October 2017** – Assembly to outline option process to students.
- **Wednesday 15th November – Parental information evening** – options process and support available in decision making outlined. Students receive an information pack containing options booklet and options form for their learning pathway.
- **Friday 12th January 2018** – Key Stage 4 taster day. Students select four potential subjects to have a trial lesson in.
- **Monday 15th January** - Trial option run: students will be asked to fill in their option sheet and return them to their progress tutors by **Monday 22nd 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 7th February – Year 8 Parents Evening** – Parents and students have an opportunity to discuss option choices with teaching staff.



- **Monday 5th March**- Students will be given their final option sheet.
- **Monday 12th 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 19th March.**

Most students will continue to study English language, English literature, mathematics, science, religious studies and PE and for many students on the higher learning pathway studying a language will also be compulsory.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting Miss Simkins (Assistant Principal Key Stage 4) or me, here at the academy. Please return the tear off slip below to progress tutors to indicate whether you will be able to attend the parental information evening on Wednesday 15th November.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Davies
Senior Leader Logistics

Please return this slip to your progress tutor by Monday 6th November.

Student's name: Form:

I/We **will** be able to attend the parental information evening on Wednesday 15th November at 5pm.*

I/We **will not** be able to attend the parental information evening on Wednesday 15th November at 5pm.*

**delete as applicable*

Parent/Guardian's signature

