

Principal:
Emma Robins



9 February 2022

Dear Year 8 Parent/Carer

The options process in school is changing which will impact directly on your child. Normally at this time of the year, Year 8 students choose their GCSE options ready for the start of new courses in Year 9. However, we are making changes this year, which will mean that Year 8 students will not be selecting their GCSE option courses. This will now take place in Year 9 ready to start GCSE courses in Year 10.

This decision has been made for several reasons. We are very mindful of the amount of learning time that our Year 8 students have lost in the past 2 years because of the pandemic. Their last full year in school was when they were in Year 6. Since then, they have had their education disturbed by periods of isolation, school closures and limitations in their experiences at school. Inevitably, this has impacted on their learning.

An extra year before choosing their options will ensure students have deeper knowledge and understanding in all subjects. This will mean they are better placed to decide the best subjects to study at GCSE level. They will benefit from a broad education, across a range of subjects, before leaving some subjects behind when they start their GCSE courses in Year 10.

We will be offering a small element of choice to Year 8 students for their Year 9 studies. This will be in technology, the arts and languages. Students will not be able to give up study in these areas, but there will be some options available. We will share full details with you and the students after half term.

This decision has been taken following discussion with Hope Sentamu Learning Trust and is based on research across a range of schools. We feel it will ensure our students are well placed to be successful in the future.

Yours faithfully

Emma Robins
Principal

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