

Principal:  
Emma Robins



2 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Year 8 Option Choices**

As outlined before half term, your child will not be choosing their GCSE option subjects until Year 9. This is to ensure they are not disadvantaged because of lost learning during the pandemic. They will enjoy another full Year in all subjects before starting their GCSE courses.

However, we will be offering Year 8 students **some** choice in a few areas for their Year 9 curriculum. This will allow students to maintain a broad range of subjects as well as pursuing one or two areas of specialism.

Next year, all Year 9 students must continue with the national curriculum subjects which are:

English	Computing
Maths	Art
Science	Music
Philosophy & Ethics	Geography
PE	History

They must also continue with a Modern Foreign Language, Technology and either Dance or Drama, but in these areas they will have some choice. Students have been given full information in school about the choices available to them in assemblies. They now need to complete the form, which they have been given, to indicate the subjects they would like to choose. This form must be returned to their Form Tutor by the 11 March. Your child will be able to discuss their choices with their Form Tutor and subject teachers.

Please encourage your child to complete their form and return it to school by the deadline. We have included some Frequently Asked Questions with this letter to further explain the process. If you have any additional questions please contact:  
k.shires@gra.hslt.academy

Yours faithfully

KL Shires  
Acting Vice Principal

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why can't I do my option choices in Year 8?**

You have not been in school full time since Year 5 and we want to give you more time on the full range of subjects before you make your choices. Ultimately this will help you make informed choices and allow you time to plug any gaps you have which were created by lockdowns/absences from school.

### **Can I stop studying a language/technology/performing arts/Geography/History etc?**

No, everyone will continue with the list of subjects above but we hope to offer a choice of languages, technologies, performing arts to you in Year 9

### **If I don't do something in Year 9 as part of the mini options process, can I still choose it for my main options in Year 10?**

Yes but there will obviously be some advantages to thinking carefully about your mini options now to help you in the options you choose in Years 10 and 11

### **Will I be able to change my choice if I don't like the subjects?**

Yes but we will ask you to do this as soon as possible at the start of Year 9