

18 February 2022

Dear Parent

**Changes to the Year 8 options process from September 2022**

I am writing to inform you about a change to our options process which will affect your child. Last year, students chose their options in year 8 and then started to study these courses in year 9. However, due to a review of the whole curriculum across the schools in the Trust, we are now delaying this by a year. Therefore your child will make their option choices next year and begin their GCSE and vocational courses in year 10. Due to this recent change, the planned Year 8 options information evening that was taking place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is now cancelled.

**Why are we making these changes?**

The latest educational research clearly demonstrates the benefits of giving students a broader curriculum for as long as possible before specialising for GCSE and vocational courses. The topics and concepts studied at GCSE can be challenging and require a large body of knowledge and skills which then allow students to learn successfully. By giving students more time to develop their knowledge and skills at Key Stage 3 (years 7-9), we are confident that they will be better equipped to learn the more complex knowledge needed at Key Stage 4 (years 10-11).

Yours sincerely



Steve Smith  
Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Timetabling