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25th January 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 8 Parent Partnership & Key Stage 4 Course Information Evening
Thursday 8th February 2018, 4:00pm – 7:00pm

I am writing to inform you of a change to your child's curriculum, which will take affect from September 2018. Traditionally students have chosen examination option subjects during Year 9 to study in Years 10 and 11 however, recent changes to the difficulty, and grading, of GCSE exams means that the two year Key Stage 4 is no longer providing sufficient depth of study to achieve the very best grades. We are also committed to providing your child with a broad and balanced curriculum to give them the very best future pathway and career opportunities.

To provide your son/daughter with greater choice and depth of study, examination choices will now be made during Year 8 and will be studied in Years 9, 10 and 11. We consider this to have a very positive benefit for your child:

- In a 3-year Key Stage 4, we are able to offer a wider range of option subject choices. Your child will be able to choose four option subjects.
- In a 3-year Key Stage 4 your child will receive, 50% more teaching time for each examination subject compared to the old style 2-year Key Stage 4. This provides better coverage for the new examination specifications.
- Your child will receive greater depth of content and increased time for examination preparation as all GCSE examinations are now taken at the end of Year 11 and coursework no longer contributes to the majority of courses.

This year we will be combining our Year 8 Parent Partnership Evening with the opportunity to find out additional information about the GCSE courses available to your child. We request your attendance, together with your son/daughter, at this important event.

This event will give you the opportunity to meet with your son's/daughter's current subject teachers in order to discuss achievement, progress and agree specific action points to help your child achieve their target levels. As a priority, parents should make appointments to see core subject teachers (English, maths and Science) and the teachers of subjects your child is interested in considering as an option choice to discuss current progress and aptitude for future study.

You will also have the opportunity to speak to subject teachers of the new courses being offered to your child. Your child will be receiving extra information and an Options booklet, in advance, during a PSHE session.

To provide parents with additional information on the options process and Key Stage 4 requirements there will be a 20-minute formal presentation for parents in the Theatre delivered by Mrs Minhas. This presentation will be held at 5:00pm and repeated again at 6:00pm for parents to attend as convenient.

The Parent Partnership Evening will operate on an appointment system. Your son/daughter is responsible for making individual appointments with each subject teacher; please find the appointment booking form enclosed. This should be done as soon as possible to secure your appointment time.

I believe it is essential that we give our students every opportunity to maximise success across the curriculum, giving them the very best chance for their future Options choices.

I look forward to seeing you at this event.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Fletcher
Headteacher

Return Slip
Year 8 Parent Partnership & Key Stage 4 Course Information Evening
Please return this slip to Student Services by Friday 2nd February 2018

Student's Name:

Tutor Group:

We will / will not* (*please edit as appropriate) be attending the Parent Partnership & Key Stage 4 Course Information Evening on Thursday 8th February 2018.

Signed.....

Date:

Print Name.....

