

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Woodhouse BSc(Hons)  
Head of School: Mrs S Crawley BSc (Hons)

3 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **PRE-OPTIONS CHOICES FOR YEAR 8 STUDENTS**

Today we have held an assembly for all of our Year 8 students to discuss with them their Option choices and the changes to this process.

In previous years, students have chosen all of their Option subjects in Year 8. This year, in line with the extensive research in education on the value of a broad curriculum, students will continue with all their EBACC subjects in Year 9: English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and French in addition to Core PE, PSHE/RP and 'Be Inspired'.

We remain committed to our students being partners in their learning journey and therefore, in Year 8, they will be able to select two creative subjects. To make these choices, our students will have a two-part process. They will first select their preferred choices from the broad range of creative subjects they currently study in Years 7 and 8: Art, Drama, Design Technology, Food Technology, Music and Computing. Based on their preferences, we will organise the most popular subjects into two Option blocks in a way which allows the most students to study their first choices. Whilst we cannot guarantee all students' first choices, we do our utmost to organise subjects so this can happen.

When the two Option blocks are decided and following Parents Evening, when you can discuss Options with subject teachers, students will confirm their final choices for Year 9. This structure allows us to devote more learning time in the school week to students' preferred creative subjects. They will therefore build greater understanding, skills and knowledge as the majority of students follow these subjects through to GCSE in Years 10 and 11.

In Year 9, students will be able to choose whether to continue Geography or History at GCSE level in Years 10 and 11. It is our current view that all students will continue to study French in Year 10 and 11 and build on the excellent progress and achievement that our students have in this subject and ensure that they are eligible to achieve the EBACC qualification, which is the gold standard for future career and education options choices. We will monitor the progress of our students in French in Year 9 to ensure that this curriculum decision best meets their educational needs.

Year 9 students will also be able to make changes to their previous creative Options. Students wishing to take a second Humanities subject or a Sport qualification will, based on sufficient numbers, be able to change from their creative subjects.

(continued overleaf)

In summary:

### Year 9 Curriculum Subjects

English	Maths	Science	Geography	History	French	Core PE	PSHE/RP	Be Inspired	Creative Option 1	Creative Option 2
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### Year 10 and 11 Curriculum Subjects

English	Maths	Science	French	EBACC Option Geography or History	Core PE	PSHE/RP	Be Inspired	Creative Option 1	Creative Option 2	
									Sport/Humanities	

Tutors will be available tomorrow to support our students with their pre-Options, the first part of their Year 8 Option choices and if you have queries or wish to speak to a specific Year 8 Option teacher, please do not hesitate to get in touch via telephone or email. You will have the opportunity for more in-depth discussions with the subject teachers before final choices are made at our Year 8 Parents Evening on 4 March 2020.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Crawley  
**Head of School**