



Year 8 – Options Update

Good Evening

While we are waiting to start, please mute yourselves, thank you

The 'chat' function can be used for questions during this short presentation

We will be **recording** this event today

Welcome

Hopefully this evening will help to frame parents' evening further for you before tomorrow

Joining me tonight are Mrs Woodman, Miss Buckthorp and Mr Hollis
Mrs Hale – Careers Advisor

Where are we?

- The impact of coronavirus
 - **Lack of time in school**
 - **Lack of access to practical areas**
 - **Connections made with key staff**

Staff and Governors have thought about this a lot over recent months and weeks. The opportunities that students should have are of paramount importance to us all. We want them to have the VERY best life chances.

Year 7 & 8

Next steps...

- We are going to allow students to make option choices this year
- Students will start KS4 courses at the start of Y9

BUT...

- We are going to slow this process down and students will not be expected to choose until June (rather than February)
- This allows students more time with teachers to decide
- Tonight is not the formal 'Options Evening' – just a prelude

What does this year look like then?

- **Monday 8th - Friday 12th February** – Option subject assemblies for students
- **Wednesday 10th February** – A live Microsoft TEAMS event for you and your parents led by SLT at 6pm
- **Thursday 11th February** – Virtual Year 8 Parents' Evening via 'School Cloud'
- **Summer Term** – *'Taster Experience'*
- **Week beginning 7th June** – Y8 Assembly and issue of Options Booklets. Year 8 written reports out
- **Thursday 10th June** – Year 8 Options Evening. If this cannot be held live in school because of restrictions, we will present virtually and subject leaders will film the requirements for various courses for your information. We appreciate that you will need contact with staff again at this point
- **Wednesday 23rd June** – deadline for Options Forms to be returned to Mr Hollis. You will choose 4 subjects (and reserves) **Essential to be adhered to**

Before the end of the summer term, confirmation of subjects with students for September preparation.

What does this year look like then?

Careers Advice

<https://www.startprofile.com/>

- Students have a 'Start Career' log in provided by Mrs Hale in October. This can be used to begin some initial thoughts around post 16 choices
- Mrs Hale will then be providing some critical work for students either remotely or in school in order to support your options decisions more

Mrs Hale is our careers advisor
PaulaHale@alcesteracademy.org.uk



What do students have to study?

- Maths
 - English
 - Science
 - RE (Theology)
 - PE
- CORE

4 other option choices:
History or Geography (or both!)
French or German (or both!)
Choice 3
Choice 4



Potential parent thoughts/questions...

- My child has not had any specialist subjects in the correct rooms recently. How can they decide on subjects based on this?
- My child still doesn't know what subjects to take

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/options>

- Can my child stop engaging in the subjects that they won't carry forward?
- What if my child makes a decision in the summer, starts a course and wants to change in September?
- My child does not want to study a language. Do they have to?
- My child wants to study History and Geography. Can they?



Potential parent thoughts/questions...

- My child struggles with exams. This all feels very real. What support will they have?
- Do any subjects still have a 'coursework' element?
- Where can my child get extra information to help them to decide on subjects to take?

Google Classroom: q3ettxf

@AA_Careers_Zone

LONG TERM PLANS – On the school website

- Can we know what subjects are available to choose from?
- I can see that you are asking for a first choice and a reserve. Are the students guaranteed one of these?
- Will subjects make allowances for the lockdown period(s) in future years?



Why don't the students have another year? They've missed a lot of school...

- We know that the students are excited about refining their curriculum and concentrating on those subjects that they want to carry forward
- If students have done everything in this lockdown, and the last, they have covered everything needed (in a slightly different way to normal!)
- This model allows students to choose 4 subjects; a 2 year KS4 would only allow them to select 3
- We have 3 years to specialise in the examined subjects together
- We have 3 years to get to know the individual needs of students
- We have 3 years to work on the very best outcomes possible and give students the very best life chances!!

What now for students?

- Get excited!
- Start thinking and researching
- Join in with tutor times and assemblies to keep up to date
- Return any work around this subject to the appropriate person on time; Mrs Hale, Tutor, Miss Buckthorp
- Use Parents' Evening wisely

**WHAT
NOW?**