



Year 8 – Options Update

Good Morning

While we are waiting to start, please mute yourselves and refrain from using the chat function. Thanks everyone!

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 you should have are of paramount importance to us all. We want you to have the VERY best life chances.

Year 7 & 8

Next steps...

- We are going to allow you to make option choices this year!
- You will start KS4 courses at the start of Y9

BUT...

- We are going to slow this process down and you will not be expected to choose until June (rather than February)
- This allows you more time with your teachers to decide

What does this year look like then?

- **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*' – **Mrs Woodman**
- **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
- **Wednesday 23rd June** – deadline for Options Forms to be returned to Mr Hollis. You will choose 4 subjects (and reserves)

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/>

- You 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 you either remotely or in school in order to support your options decisions more

Mrs Hale is our careers advisor



What do I 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



Some thoughts that you might be having...

- No, you don't have to decide now! There is time (5 months)
- You should NOT decide to 'not try' in some subjects; the tracker will continue to monitor your engagement whilst you are at home
- Yes, you should be showing your commitment right now to all teachers
- I want to take a subject at GCSE but I'm behind with my learning in this at home
- Yes, this needs careful thought and planning and we have lots of stages to get through together yet
- I need to know if my teachers think that I could cope with a GCSE in a subject?
- My parents haven't heard this assembly today...HELP!
- I'm not sure that I want to study a language...
- I'm worried about having so many Y11 exams to do already!



Why don't we have another year?

We've missed a lot of school...

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

What now?

- Get excited!
- Work hard ready for parents' evening and beyond!
- 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

**WHAT
NOW?**