



26 February 2018

Dear Parents of Year 8 Students

Students in Year 8 can select some of their Key Stage 4 courses and follow them from the start of Year 9 until the end of Year 11.

As they are making their choices, it is important that the process, information and the support available are clear and that you know how you can help your child make the right decisions.

All students will continue to follow the 'Core Curriculum'. This is made up of English, Mathematics and Science. Through the study of these core subjects, combined with hard work and doing the best they can, students increase the opportunities they have at the end of Year 11. When selecting additional subjects from the options group, it is important to consider the nature of the subject including factors such as whether they enjoy it, are they likely to be successful at it, and how, if known, it may specifically link to their future Post 16 activities as well as their long term career aspirations.

To maximise the numbers of students able to follow their preferred choices a trial option form was tested with a small number of Year 8 students. This had nothing to do with making actual option choices, but was to see the combination of subjects students were choosing. This information is then used to create the final option subject blocking grouping to ensure as many students as possible get their first choice when the final options form is created.

To clarify, no students have made their options choices. The final form will be given out at the Year 8 Preparation for Year 9 Evening on Thursday 19 April.

Students will have four free option choices to make. They must select **at least one** from Geography, History or a foreign language. Details on all Key Stage 4 courses can be found in the Options Booklet.

The timeline for the process is as follows:

Week Commencing

26 February: This letter home.

Thursday 15 March:

Year 8 Subjects Parents' Evening. This is an opportunity for you to discuss the details of specific subjects with individual teachers. It can also be used to discuss the suitability of continuing the subject into Year 9 if it is an option subject.

Week Commencing

19 March:

In assemblies, Heads of Faculty and Department will explain a little about the choices in their subject areas. In Tutorial time, students from Years 9, 10 and 11 will be discussing with Year 8 students, why they made the choices they did and how the course is going.

Friday 23 March:

The **Options Booklet** will be available online to all Year 8 students and parents. This explains all of the different courses on offer. It also contains advice on how to achieve a balanced range of subjects and how the courses link to choices which can be made at the end of Year 11. I ask that you read this booklet carefully with your son/daughter. The **Options Choices Form** will be handed out on the **Year 8 Preparation for Year 9 Evening**. Your son/daughter must make their choices and return the completed form **by Monday 23 April**. It is important that your son/daughter makes full use of the advice and guidance available, prior to returning the form.

Thursday 19 April:

Year 8 Preparation for Year 9 Evening. Parents are invited into the school to hear about the background regarding the Key Stage 4 curriculum and the options choice process. Teachers from the subjects will be available to answer questions and give advice. Careers information will also be available. There will be a presentation in the Main Hall by Mr Page at 6pm which will then be repeated at 6.45pm.

Friday 20 April: **Year 8 Careers Day**
Monday 23 April: **Completed form returned to Student Services**
Summer Term: Options allocations will be given out to the students.

Throughout this process the Independent and Impartial Careers Advice and Guidance Officer **Michelle White** will be supporting the school and the students.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact your son/daughter's Form Tutor in the first instance.

Please ensure that you return the attached reply slip to confirm that you have received this letter and that you are/are not able to attend the Year 8 Preparation for Year 9 Evening.

Yours sincerely



Mr R L Page
Deputy Headteacher

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SLIP BY MONDAY 5 MARCH 2018 FOR THE ATTENTION OF:
Mr R L Page, c/o Student Services, Lord Grey School, Rickley Lane, Bletchley, MK3 6EW**

Please confirm that:

- I have received the letter about the **Year 8 Options** process.
- I note that the **Options Booklet** will be available online from **Friday 23 March**.
- I note that the **Options Choices Form** will be handed out at the **Year 8 Preparation for Year 9 Evening on 19 April**. This is to be completed and **returned by 23 April**.
- I will/will not be able to attend the **Year 8 Subject Parents' Evening** on **15 March**.
- I will/will not be able to attend the **Year 8 Preparation for Year 9 Evening** on **19 April**.

Signed:

Student's Name: Tutor Group:.....