



January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Options Choices

As you will hopefully be aware, your son/daughter will start his/her GCSE courses in Year 9 in order to allow sufficient time for him/her to study for the new, more challenging GCSE qualifications. This arrangement of studying GCSEs over 3 years is in place for our current Year 9, 10 and 11 students following a consultation involving students, parents/carers and staff. As part of the process of starting their GCSEs in Year 9, we allow students a degree of choice regarding some of the subjects which they continue to study up to GCSE level. I am writing to you at this point to inform you of the arrangements we have put in place to support your son/daughter in making his/her option choices and to alert you to some important dates. Further details about the options process will be provided in the Options booklet and during the Year 8 Curriculum and Options Evening.

- **Options assemblies** – over the next few weeks, your son/daughter will hear from the Subject Leaders of every option subject about what their subjects involve at GCSE. I will also be explaining to them about how the process of choosing their options works.
- **Options booklet** – a booklet will be produced to provide both you and your son/daughter with information about the options process and what each subject entails.
- **CPSHEE** – CPSHEE lessons over the next few weeks will focus on choosing option subjects and future learning opportunities.
- **Year 8 Job Taster Day (Tuesday 11 February)** – students will have the opportunity to hear from people working in a range of professions about what their job involves and the qualifications needed to do it.
- **Year 8 Curriculum and Options Evening (Thursday 13 February)** – which will provide you with an opportunity to attend an ‘options fair’ and talk to staff about their subjects and also learn more about the options process. Further details regarding this event will be sent out nearer the time.
- **Taster lessons** – Subject Leaders have been asked to put on taster lessons in their subject to provide your son/daughter with a flavour of what each subject involves at GCSE level. Further information regarding arrangements for taster lessons in those subjects which your son/daughter is not currently studying will be sent out in due course.

Clearly we want to support your son/daughter in making the ‘right’ option choices by giving them as much information as possible prior to the **final deadline of Friday 6 March** for their option choices. In addition to the support outlined above, please encourage them to talk to you, other family members, their form tutor, teachers of those subjects they are interested in and students already doing these subjects in order to gather as much information as possible. I would also suggest researching the qualifications needed for any careers that they might be interested in along with what the entry requirements are for particular courses which they might be interested in studying at post-16 level.



Higham Lane School

Helping Learners Succeed

Headteacher: Phil Kelly BA MBA NPQH

Should you have any further questions regarding these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact me at the School.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Banks".

Mr P. Banks
Deputy Headteacher

(BP-AA) Year 8 Options Choices - January 2020