



Ref: AdminSA: Events in School/SZY/TOM
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Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 8 OPTIONS UPDATE

I hope my letter finds you and your family safe and well. Firstly, I would like to congratulate Year 8 for their high levels of engagement with their online learning. Mrs Managh shares attendance levels each week and it is fantastic to see how committed our Year 8 students are to their learning.

In normal circumstances we would be beginning the Year 8 options process, ultimately selecting the subjects they would study at GCSE level. However, we have made the decision to postpone options until Year 9, considering the amount of time students have missed in school due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

After careful deliberation we feel it would be more beneficial for students to complete a further year of Key Stage 3 and continue to study the full range of subjects on our curriculum. It would be unfair to ask students to select GCSE options without fully experiencing the courses on offer, for example, Year 8 students have not had the opportunity to engage in any practical lessons for Art or Technology subjects this year, which are pivotal elements of the GCSE course.

This means we will return to a traditional Key Stage 4 where students study their GCSE courses over 2 years. Therefore, the Options Evening scheduled to take place on **Monday 8th March** will now revert to a normal Parents' Evening. This will take place via video call and Mrs Managh will be in touch shortly with further details.

We have made this decision in the best interests of our students and I do believe, in maintaining a breadth of study, they will feel more confident in making their option choices during Year 9.

If you have any queries or you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me via the school office.

Yours Sincerely

Miss E Szymura
Deputy Headteacher

