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Dear Parent or Carer,

Your child is about to start to make their choices around which subjects they would like to study at GCSE level in Year 9 and beyond. Over the next half term, the students and yourselves will be receiving lots of information around the choices they have moving forward.

Very shortly the students will be receiving their latest report and for many this will be a starting point. Please support your son or daughter in looking at the grades they are projected to gain at the end of Year 11 and factoring these into the subjects they choose to continue with. Many students have also already had a careers appointment with Ms R Green, who provides the careers advice within school, and those who have not yet seen her will have the opportunity to do so over the next few weeks. Her advice will be very valuable to consider when the students are choosing their options.

The students will be having assemblies in the week commencing the 5th of March in the subject areas that they will not have had experience of so far in school, to give them a flavour of these new courses. The students will also then have access to a taster day on the **12th of March**, during which they will be able to try out 2 of these new subjects for themselves within the normal school day to further enhance their understanding of these courses.

On the **13th of March** the students will receive the options booklet, detailing all the courses available to them and their options forms ready for completion.

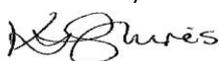
We will then be holding the main **Options evening on the 15th of March from 4pm until 7pm**. You and your son or daughter are invited to come and listen to us explain the finer details of the process in presentations at either 4pm or 5.30pm as well as visiting all the subject areas available to discuss the courses with the teachers who will be delivering the courses next year.

Finally, the subject **parents evening for Year 8 is planned for the 22nd of March** to give you an additional opportunity to discuss their choices with their teachers.

The option forms then need to be **returned to school by the 29th of March**. After this date we will be interviewing the students to discuss their choices and some amendments maybe necessary at this point in the process. We will always endeavour to meet the student preferences but this is not always possible due to courses either not recruiting, being over-subscribed or not being suitable.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Shires
Assistant Head Curriculum

Mr M Smythe
Head of Year 8