

5 January 2022

Dear Insert name

**RE: Y8 OPTIONS**

The Year 8 students will shortly be engaging in their Option choices. On the reverse of this letter is the timeline for the Options promotion. Students were given their Option booklet today. Please do read this document carefully with your Y8 student to ensure that they understand the process and they can consider what options they would like to take. The timeline could change and we will notify you by email if there are any changes to the dates.

On 27 January we have our Options evening where you will be given more information regarding what subjects we offer. Prior to this evening, there will be a recorded presentation that will explain the various pathways and available options. This will be sent via a link to all parents week commencing 24 January. In order to ensure all remain safe, we are asking that students attend the evening with one parent only, with both the student and parent wearing masks at all times.

The times that we will be running the two sessions can be seen below. It is important that you attend at the specific time so that we do not have overcrowding.

This is a very important time for Year 8 and, as you can see from the timeline below, there is a thorough process to ensure students make informed choices.

**Timeline for the Year 8 Options**

Due to the current situation, this timeline is subject to change. We will notify you of any changes in this timeline by email.

**W/C Monday 10 January 2022**

The Options process is introduced to Year 8 students through a virtual year group assembly and the Year Course & Option Information Booklet, with details of all courses. This will be placed on the Academy's website.

**Monday 10 to Friday 21 January 2022**

During this time, all subject areas will provide information on the KS4 courses that they offer. Students will have the opportunity to speak with their Academic Form Tutors and Subject Teachers regarding the possible courses they may wish to study.

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Mr Griffiths and BTEC leaders will present information on BTEC courses on Thursday 20 January. These subjects are Construction, Media Studies, Business Studies, Computer Science and Sport.

**Thursday 27 January 2022**

Year 8 Options Information Evening – This is a face to face event and NOT on School cloud as per the information Newsletter sent on 7 January

This is an opportunity for parents/carers and students to discover more about the subjects available. Please see the letter on reverse. However, to ensure safety of parents and students we will invite students and a parent in at the following time:

6.15pm -7.00pm **surname beginning A-J**

7.15 pm -8.00pm **surname beginning K-Z**

**W/C Monday 31 January 2022**

A 'straw poll' will be taken where students will be asked to indicate their preferred Option choices for KS4. The data collected will be used to formulate the Option blocks from which students will make their final choices. This will be conducted using a Microsoft Form sent to all Year 8 students.

**Friday 4 February 2022**

This is the final date for all straw poll forms to be returned.

**W/C Monday 14 February 2022**

Following the straw poll, the final Option blocks will be issued to students.

**Friday 18 February 2022**

This is the final date for all Option forms to be returned.

**W/C Monday 7 March 2022**

Mr Falcon will conduct interviews with all students who have not been successful with their allocation of option choices.

**Monday 21 March 2022**

Option confirmation to students and parents will be made via a letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions about this process. Please do allow us 48hrs to respond to queries

MR A GRIFFITHS  
Vice Principal

Mr F Falcon  
AYL Y8