

13th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Guided Choices

As you will be aware Year 8 students make their GCSE option choices this term. This letter is to give you a brief timeline of the differing stages of the process allowing them to choose their GCSE option subjects, starting in September 2025.

In the **week commencing 3rd February** the Guided Choices booklets will be handed to students during registration. This gives an overview of the process and where additional information to help make decisions can be found. The selection of courses on offer are designed to best ensure both achievement through Key Stage 4 and access to appropriate post-16 courses beyond Year 11.

On **Thursday 13th February** I invite you to the Guided Choices evening which takes place in person at the college. At the event there will be a presentation by both the Principal and myself explaining the process in more detail and the opportunity to ask us both questions. There will also be subject staff available who can give you more specific information about each of the courses. Year 8 is a large year group and so to manage numbers I would ask that you attend at the times below:

Students with surnames starting A-K

- 5.00 – 5.45pm: In A block dining hall with subject teachers
- 5.45 – 6.15pm: In A block assembly hall for presentation

Students with surnames starting L-Z

- 5.45 – 6.30pm: In A block dining hall with subject teachers
- 6.30 – 7.00pm: In A block assembly hall for presentation

On **Friday 14th February** the online system will go live and at this point students can start choosing their options. The deadline for this is **1pm Monday 31st March**. More detail about the online system will be given during the Guided Choices evening.

On **Tuesday 11th March** the Year 8 'Meet the Tutor' evening will take place. This will give you an opportunity to talk to your child's tutor about their progress and thoughts on GCSE choices.

On **Monday 31st March** the Options Online system will close at 1pm and on **Wednesday 2nd April** you will be emailed with the choices we have recorded for your child. To be clear this is not the final allocation of choices but the ones we currently have recorded for them.

Final allocations will be communicated in early June 2025.



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Should you have any questions about the Guided Choices process contact me by email:

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Yours faithfully

Dr KJ Norton-Berry
Assistant Principal



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

