



23 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Pathways 2023

I am writing to all parents/carers of students in Year 8 to detail how the Pathways process will work for your child over the next year. If you have older children who have completed Pathways you will be aware that currently the process begins in the summer term of Year 8 with our Pathways Evening and Fair and then students make their initial choices from the start of Year 9.

Our monitoring of the curriculum has shown that due to disruption in education over the last few years students require greater opportunity to gain the depth of knowledge needed in each Key Stage 3 subject.

For this reason, we will be requiring Year 8 students to study Key Stage 3 subjects for longer before they make their first choices. This will ensure that they have extra time to obtain that depth of knowledge that I mentioned earlier and can then use this to pick their choices wisely.

We recognise that there are subjects available in Pathways that they have not yet had the opportunity to study. To ensure that they are making a fully informed choice, we will be introducing these subjects within their curriculum in Year 9. All students will have one lesson a fortnight where they will study Personal Finance as an introduction to Business and Economics. They will also have an introduction to Creative iMedia as part of the Technology curriculum. We believe that both of these opportunities will benefit all our students and help them be better prepared for later life.

We will hold our Pathways Evening and Fair early in the Spring Term of 2024. The evening will be an opportunity for you and your child to gain further information about the subjects and courses they plan to study. Our subject leaders will be available to give details of their courses and answer any questions you may have. The evening will be held in the school Sports Hall.

Following the Pathways Evening, students will be asked to make their initial choices for the start of Pathways which will be for 10 weeks in the summer term of Year 9. These 10 weeks will work much the same as the current Pathways process with students having two opportunities to adapt their Pathway so that they are settled in their subjects by the start of Key Stage 4 in Year 10.

We will contact you again later in the academic year with further details.

Yours faithfully

Mr N Berry
Assistant Headteacher



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