

May 2017

Dear Parents

As you are aware, and following on from the Options Information Evening held in October 2016, Year 8 pupils are approaching the time when they will have some choice over which subjects they will take next year leading to the GCSE examinations in 2020. Parents with older children need to note that most of the GCSE courses have been re-written over the past two years, with the removal of coursework and Controlled Assessments. A further change to GCSE assessment nationally is that there are no more modular or unit examinations; the whole course is examined at the end of Year 11.

There is not an unlimited choice and the National Curriculum, quite rightly in our view, requires that there is breadth and balance in each pupil's choice of subjects in Years 9 - 11.

All our pupils are required to study Maths, English, Double Science and French or German. In addition to these subjects all pupils will be prepared for a GCSE in ICT, to be taken at the end of Year 10. This is done to ensure that pupils have the ICT skills to enrich their GCSE assessed work in their other subjects.

Three free option choices will be available. Naturally we do our best to ensure as many pupils as possible get their first choices, but you will understand that we cannot run courses where demand does not create a viable group. **Pupils must be prepared for some redirection where necessary.**

We shall be holding an Information Evening for parents of Year 8 pupils on **Monday 8th May 2017**, in the main hall starting at **6.00pm**. There will be a short explanation of the subject choices and the necessary procedures. There will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions about their child's choices.

Yours sincerely



Ms S F Spivey
Headteacher