



14 December 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 9 GCSE Programme of Study, GCSE Showcase Evening, 23 January 2018

We have reached an important 'milestone' in your child's education. At the start of the next school year your child will be embarking on a range of three-year courses.

We have conducted a curriculum review and as a school we have decided that Key Stage 4 will now be a three-year programme. This means that the GCSE courses will be studied over Years 9, 10 and 11. The main reason for this is due to the increased content of the GCSE courses and the increased complexity of the information and skills required to secure good levels of attainment.

By starting GCSEs in Year 9 and having three years to prepare for the final exams, we feel that the students will be more secure in their understanding and will have time to develop their skills and confidence in the material.

The other significant change is that we are expecting the vast majority of students to follow a programme of study which includes the Ebacc combination of subjects. This means that we expect approximately 70% of our students to study a Modern Language with either History or Geography and two further subjects as well as the core subjects of Sciences, Mathematics and English. The other 30% of students may study a Modern Language and History and Geography if they wish. This figure is a national benchmark and is an expectation in most schools around the country. We must ensure that we offer a programme of study which will allow our students to be competitive in a national and international market for academic study and employment in the future.

We invite you to come to the 'GCSE Showcase Evening' on the 23 January 2018, to be presented with key information from Mrs Potter about the future of education and the employment landscape. You will also have the opportunity to speak to subject staff about the GCSE courses we offer as well as important information topics and careers information, including opportunities for study and apprenticeships which follow on from GCSE years.

We hope that each family will be represented at the evening. We anticipate a very large attendance at this evening and ask that no more than two adults accompany each child. It will be an opportunity to collect subject information and speak to departmental staff from all the subjects which may be chosen for the new Programmes of Study. In order to assist us with planning please respond to the consent email that will follow, indicating if you are able to attend or not, before **Friday 22 December 2017**. Time slots between 5.40pm and 7.00pm will be allocated at the start of the new term.

After 23 January we will contact each family with a link to the electronic subject choices form. There will be a period of time to complete the choices and submit them prior to February half term.

This is an exciting and challenging term for you son/daughter and we hope that the choices made will help secure good grades and a positive future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr DS Clark
Deputy Headteacher