

27 January 2017
Ref: AJJ/KAW/Yr8miniptions

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 8 Mini-Options Process

Following a period of reflection and a review of our Curriculum, we will revert back to students making FULL GCSE option choices in Year 9 rather than in Year 8. Students will now once again start formal GCSE courses in Year 10. This change is due to a number of changes to GCSE examination courses and that our analysis indicates that our Year 8 students are not ready and fully equipped to make important decisions that streamline their Key Stage 4 programme of study at such an early stage in their lives.

Instead, we will run a 'Mini-Options' process in year 8 in order to allow Year 8 students some element of choice in their Year 9 curriculum. Students will make four choices in total and will be able to pick two subjects to 'specialise' in from the Expressive Arts suite of subjects (known going forward as Option Block 1) and two subjects from the Design and Technology suite of subjects (known going forward as Option Block 2). **All students will continue to study English, Maths, Science, Humanities and PE, and students who currently study French in Year 8 will continue to do so in Year 9.**

Our Year 8 Parents Evening is on 23.02.2017. During the evening, there will be an opportunity for you and your child to attend a presentation in the theatre where the Year 8 'Mini-Options' process will be launched. There will not be a separate Year 8 Mini-Options Evening calendared this year. A detailed timeline of events will also be published in due course starting with:

03.02.2017 – Year 8 assembly; An Introduction to the 'Mini-Options' process

23.02.2017 – Year 8 Parents' Evening to include presentation in the theatre to share Year 8 'Mini-Options' process, 'Mini Options' forms and key dates. Time to be confirmed.

24.03.2017 - Year 8 assembly to discuss 'Mini-Options' subjects and on-going timeline – Led by Design and Technology & Expressive Arts departments.

Our TCA website will be updated regularly throughout this period of time to keep you fully informed and abreast of the Year 8 'Mini-Options' process. In the meantime, your child can seek advice from our dedicated CEIAG team (Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance), their class teachers, Form Tutor, learning Community teams and the Senior Leadership Team at any point going forward.

Should you require any further information at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Andry Joannou
VP Curriculum