

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the coming weeks, all Year 8 students will be choosing a number of subjects to study in Year 9. As part of the process, students will be asked to select:

- A humanities subject to specialise in (History or Geography)
- 2 additional 'Depth' subjects to be studied as part of the Year 9 Curriculum. This will allow students the opportunity to study these subjects in greater depth, helping inform their final 2 GCSE option choices which they will make at the end of Year 9.

Please note: Their third depth option will be taken up with their continued study of Mandarin Chinese to enable them to study sufficient hours per week to complete the course they started in Year 7 and will continue in Year 10 -11 to gain a GCSE qualification.

**To support with this process, we would like to invite you to attend our Year 8 Options Evening on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, in the Main School Hall at 6pm.** We will start the evening with a short presentation to all parent/carers and students in the main hall (lasting about 20 minutes) where we will be sharing important information about the options process and key dates and deadlines for the coming weeks. Parents/carers and students will then be able to visit a number of subject stalls' (situated in the school diners) where they will be able to find out more about each course on offer and also to ask questions from subject specific staff, in order to support them in making their choices. We anticipate the evening ending no later than 7.30pm.

Students will then submit their option choices via **Options Online**, which is a web-based options programme allowing students to select their options at home or in school. Students will receive a link to the website and instructions via their school e-mail in the days following the Options' evening.

Below are some of the key dates this term that will be discussed at the evening in more detail;

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Key information</b>
<b>Mon 30<sup>th</sup> January – Wed 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Year 8 - 9 options assemblies for students</b>	Students will be briefed about their option choices over 3 days of assemblies. <b>Students will also be given a paper copy of the Options Support booklet to take home and keep.</b>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January (6.00 – 7.30pm: Main Hall)</b>	<b>Year 8-9 Options' Support evening</b>	A main presentation in the school hall at 6pm followed by subject stalls for students and parent/carers to ask questions and gather information to support them in the options process.
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Year 8 full reports sent home</b>	A chance to see current progress and attitude to learning information before making final decisions about option choices.
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Option choices deadline</b>	The deadline for all option choices to be made via Options Online

Please do not worry if you are unable to attend the Options' Evening as further information will be sent to parents/cares (including a copy of the main presentation used on the evening and the options booklet) in the following week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help or support to you prior to the Options' evening.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C Wright".

Mrs C Wright  
Assistant Headteacher