

Our Ref: SKN/ljm

3rd December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of changes to the Curriculum that directly affects Students in Year 8.

Several years ago a decision was taken to move the options process (where students select subjects they wish to study at GCSE level) forward a year to Year 8, from Year 9. This was because, at the time, the Key Stage 3 Curriculum (the curriculum studied between the ages of 11 and 14) was not strong enough and so it was in the Students' best interests to begin their GCSE studies at the start of Year 9.

We have now made the decision to move the options process back to Year 9. There are a number of reasons for this:

- It will allow us to support Students in exploring their career intentions in greater depth and discussing with them their option choices over an extended period of time. They will be making their option choices after two and a half years of secondary school rather than one and a half.
- Our Key Stage 3 Curriculum is now much stronger than before. It is designed by the best teachers and leaders from across the Cabot Learning Federation, studied by all students in secondary schools within the Federation.
- Moving options to Year 8 has narrowed the Curriculum in Year 9. We have mitigated against this by targeting some of our Personal Development days in Year 9 to these subjects but the same depth cannot be studied in this time. The Government's expectation is that Key Stage 3 lasts three years from Year 7 to Year 9 and Ofsted are very clear in their expectations when inspecting this.

We will be discussing this with Students at next week's Personal Development Day where they will begin their journey of careers advice ahead of taking their options midway through Year 9.

This decision has been discussed for many months at leadership level within and beyond the Academy and we are confident that it is in the student's best interests.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.



Mr S Kneller
PRINCIPAL