

May 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

KS3 Curriculum – for Parents/Carers of Year 8 Students

As you may be aware at this time of year, students in Year 8 would normally be considering their GCSE choices with a view to starting their GCSEs in Year 9. Given that their time in Key Stage 3 (KS3) has already been cut short due to COVID-19, we are changing our curriculum model from September 2021. Rather than starting their GCSEs in Year 9, the current Year 8 will continue to study Key Stage 3 subjects for another year to make up for the time they have missed. They will therefore make their GCSE option choices in Year 9 and begin their GCSEs in Year 10.

This model of a three-year KS3 and a two-year KS4 is a common curriculum that many schools have returned to in recent years. Having a longer KS3 means that pupils have access to a broader curriculum for longer, enabling them to build more knowledge across a wide range of subjects before fully specialising in Year 10. GCSE courses are designed to be taught over two years, which suits a two-year KS4 perfectly.

From September 2021, all Year 9 students will continue to follow a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, RE, PE, Geography, History and either French or Spanish. Our new three-year KS3 model also provides opportunity for our Year 9 students to specialise in Performing Arts, Technology and ICT.

We are inviting all current Year 8 students to pick two Performing Arts subjects, two Technology subjects and either ICT or Computing to study during Year 9. This mini options process allows students to develop a deeper understanding of their chosen subjects and enable them to adapt more easily to the demands of higher-level study as they progress towards their GCSEs.

We will speak to Year 8 students this week about this mini options process in order to support them with their choices. Please look out for the mini options form and information coming home with your child. We require all forms to be returned by **Wednesday 26th May**. Forms not returned by this date may result in choices being made on their behalf.

In total, students need to choose 2 subjects from each of the following option blocks and either ICT or Computing.

Option A - Performing Arts	Option B - Technology and Art	ICT or Computing
Drama	Art	
Music	Food	
Media	Resistant Materials	
Dance	Textiles	

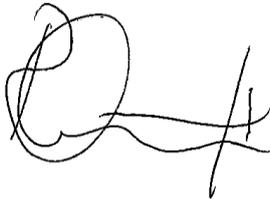
These choices, do not have to be what your son or daughter picks for their GCSE options at the end of Year 9 – there is a separate process for selecting GCSE options that will take place in Year 9 next year.

We hope that our curriculum model for September 2021 is clear. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via school reception or email studentquestions@hansonacademy.org.uk

We appreciate that this has been a difficult year and we thank you for your continued support and patience. We are really proud of the resilience demonstrated by both our staff and students. We would like to update you regarding your child's progress and will send you a copy of their most recent progress report next week.

Year 8 Virtual Parents Consultation Evening Thursday 27th May 4.30-7.00pm. Due to Government restrictions, we are hosting our Year 8 parents evening online through Video Appointments. You will not need to download an app, you just need a smart phone or device with a camera. If you do not have access to either of these please contact Miss Akhtar (Director of Key Stage 3) a.akhtar@hansonacademy.org.uk or our administration team info@hansonacademy.org.uk We will send you more information about how to book and information about how to join the video appointments in the next few days.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Woods', written in a cursive style.

Mr Richard Woods
Headteacher