



07 December 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

**Re: Year 8 Options Process**

In order to best support students' learning and achievement, we would like to provide you with an overview of the options available to Year 8.

The core curriculum that students have to follow until age 16 has expanded, so that students have to take GCSE qualifications in maths and maths numeracy; English language and English literature; Welsh second language; at least 2 sciences; and the Welsh Bacallaureate Qualification. This means that the opportunity to follow a broad curriculum in year 10 and 11 is limited.

In order to avoid limiting student option choices, we have decided to run the option process in Year 8. This will allow students to choose 4 option choices, rather than 2 or 3. All students will continue to follow the core entitlement curriculum of the above core subjects plus PE, PSHE and RE. They will also be able to choose 4 subjects to continue to study during years 9-11, sitting GCSEs or equivalent qualifications in years 10 and 11.

To provide parents and carers with information there will be two briefing sessions on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the first at 5-6pm and the second at 6.30 – 7.30pm. Parents should attend whichever session is most convenient to them. These sessions are identical and they will start with a presentation to outline the new curriculum and give parents and carers time to ask questions of senior staff.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 from 5pm-8pm there will be an options fayre for parents, carers and students to meet subject teachers to gather information about the subjects on offer. This will be followed, in February, with options interviews with students and senior staff. Parents are welcome to attend these interviews.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this.

Kind regards,

Melanie Thomas

Assistant Head Teacher