



1st May 2020

Dear Year 8 Parent / Carer

Year 8 into Year 9 and beyond

Now is the time in Year 8 when we would usually start the process of students choosing their personalised options for Year 9; obviously with the current situation we are going to need to approach this differently in order for the students to make informed choices. Here are some important points to which we would like to draw your attention.

Planning for GCSEs:

In the second term of Year 9 students will start to make their option choices for GCSE.

A key expectation of recent Government reforms is that all pupils should take GCSEs in what are known as facilitating subjects. This is referred to as the English Baccalaureate and includes maths, English, two sciences, a humanity and a language. The idea is that by taking a broad core of subjects, no student, from any background, should have doors closed to future progression e.g. going to university or securing a higher level apprenticeship.

Students studying the full English Baccalaureate will eventually become the norm and therefore it is important to ensure that the current Year 9 students are equally well-qualified as those who will follow in the next few years. Our recommendation, therefore, is that most of our Year 9 students will take the English Baccalaureate, as have the majority of our students ever since its first introduction.

The Year 9 Timetable:

Our design of next year's Year 9 timetable takes all this into account. For the most part, the Year 9 timetable will be the same as that in Year 8 with students continuing to further their knowledge, skills and understanding in maths, English, science, history, geography, PE, RE and a language (French or Spanish, to be chosen by students).

Students will also take three 'personalised options' selected from: art, dance, DT, drama, Food, ICT/computing, music or to continue studying two languages. The students will have two lessons a week of each option for the duration of year 9, giving them more time to deepen their knowledge of their chosen subjects.

Normally, students would be guided through this process carefully and introduced to the content of these courses by their teachers in order to help choose the subjects that are right for them. As we are unable to do this due to not being in school we will be sending out videos for the students to watch via the google classroom that Mrs Brosnan set up for the year group. These should be shared at the start of next week (Monday 4th May). This letter also contains details of what students will do in each subject.

The students will need to complete their choices online by Wednesday 13th May. They will shortly receive an automated email from SIMS in order to register to use the options website. They should click on the link in the email and use their school google account to register. Once they have done this the students will need to go to www.sims-options.co.uk to choose their three subjects, plus two

STOKESLEY SCHOOL, STATION ROAD, STOKESLEY,
NORTH YORKSHIRE TS9 5AL

www.stokesleyschool.org

01642 710050





reserves. To choose a subject simply click on it, you can change the order of your choices by dragging them up and down on the right hand side of the screen. To choose two reserve subjects click on the reserve button on the subject, again you can order your reserves on the right hand side.

If you have any difficulties registering for or using the options website please email admin@stokesleyschool.org. For any other queries please contact myself via r.mcgreal@stokesleyschool.org

Yours sincerely,

Rob McGreal
Assistant Headteacher

