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learners who aspire for themselves and inspire others

8 March 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

YEAR 9-11 CURRICULUM OPTIONS INFORMATION

Year 8 students have arrived at an important stage in their school careers as they prepare to go into their examination courses at Calthorpe Park School. With the Year 8 Parent Consultations next week, I wanted to contact you regarding the upcoming options process for your child. You may have already had discussions surrounding this aspect and so I thought it timely to update you as to the process for this year. To this end, there is a programme of consultation and information, which is as follows:

Date	Event
Ongoing	Careers focus in PSHE lessons
12 & 14 March	Year 8 Parent Consultation Sessions
15 March	Options Presentation & Options Book made available
21 March	Options Information Evening, 5-7pm (booking link for presentation here) Options form made available
22 April	Deadline for option forms to be submitted, these will be electronic

The process of preparing students as they decide which courses they wish to follow will include the following:

- A clear outline of the Year 9-11 curriculum
- An explanation of the degree of choice
- An emphasis on the importance of each student making individual, independent and informed decisions
- An explanation of the importance of having alternative subject choices in case first choices are not possible
- Information on careers

This information will be given during a pre-recorded presentation which will be released next Friday, 15th March. Information regarding the different courses available will also be provided in lessons but students are also encouraged to speak to their subject teachers and/or Heads of Department should they wish to discuss specific courses.

The options form (which is digital) needs to be submitted **on or before 5.00 pm on 22 April (but not before 21 March)**. There is no advantage in submitting the form early.

Once the options information has been collated, curriculum option blocks and teaching groups will be arranged. The final structure of the Year 9-11 curriculum is dictated by the choices which the students make.



It should be noted that:

- **Some courses may not run if there are insufficient numbers.**
- **Some combinations of subjects may not be possible to arrange.**
- **The need to ensure the quality of the curriculum and learning opportunities for the majority may also restrict the flexibility of what can be offered.**
- **The school reserves the right to make professional decisions that are in your child's best interest. We will discuss this with you should the need arise.**

You may be aware of the Government's emphasis on encouraging young people to study a foreign language, a humanity and/or computing. This may still become a requirement for some Higher Education institutions, therefore, we expect that all students study one and most study two, which would also ensure a broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is not to jeopardise any future decisions because the GCSE subjects did not fulfil certain criteria. The Pathways that are offered are:

- The Calthorpe Core
- Focus (from Year 10 onwards)
- Vocational (from Year 10 onwards)

If your child wishes to be considered for either the Focus or Vocational Pathway, this will need to be communicated to me at your earliest convenience. We offer a wide variety of GCSE and equivalent qualifications. I would ask you to pay attention to this as it has an impact on how subjects are assessed (terminal examinations and/or coursework).

Once the organisation of the curriculum has been finalised, an e-mail indicating your child's allocated options will be sent out. If a student is not able to study their first four choices, they will have an opportunity to rethink should the reserve choices or mix of subjects no longer be satisfactory.

It is important to understand that the further through the process we go, the less flexibility there is with the curriculum - late changes may be difficult.

Finally, thank you to those of you who responded to our consultation on how the options information is to be delivered. You will see that we will be releasing this next week. However, there was also an appetite to have a live event and so a presentation will be taking place at 5.30pm during the Options Information Evening (21 March) as well. To reserve a ticket for this event please use this [link](#). We look forward to seeing you and your child/ren at Calthorpe Park School the week after next.

Yours sincerely,

Mr O Borkowski
Deputy Headteacher