



HIGHFIELDS SCHOOL

Headteacher: G Tate BA (Hons)

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11 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to outline the main elements of the Year 8 Course Choice process. Over the next few weeks, you and your child will need to make some important decisions regarding the courses that they will follow in Year 9 and I would like to ensure that everyone is as well informed as they possibly can be.

There is a tile on our website called '**Foundations for the Future**' which I hope will give you everything that you need to know to support your child. There is:

- A thorough explanation of the Year 8 Course Choice process: the courses available, timescales involved and where you can find further information to support these choices
- An introduction to our whole school strategy for supporting students in recalling the increased amount of subject knowledge required for the GCSE specifications

Students were introduced to the course choice process through an assembly yesterday to encourage them to begin to consider the range of choices and the decision-making processes they will need to go through over the next few weeks. For many students, this will be a very straightforward choice as they will have a clear idea of what they would like to do in the future and may enjoy some subjects more than others. For others though, the decision will require much more thought and consideration.

We strongly believe that all students should aspire to be the best they can be and therefore need to aim high when selecting subjects. It is important that they follow a broad and balanced curriculum and that they do not narrow their options too soon in their school careers. They should also ensure that they continue with subjects that support their natural skills and talents and feed into their future ambitions and aspirations.

Parents evening on **Thursday 2 May, 5-8.30pm** will give you all the opportunity to discuss the choices being considered with your child's class teachers and ask for their advice. This is a virtual event, with meetings arranged using Teams and the booking system will be through MCAS. If you are having any problems logging into this, please contact digitalsupport@hswv.co.uk so that all is resolved ready for when the booking window opens on **Saturday 20 April at 9am**.

I am sure that you will agree that this is an exciting opportunity for your child that will allow them to continue to be engaged and successful throughout next year and be well prepared to make their further option choices in the Spring term of Year 9. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us as always on lowerschoolstaff@hswv.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

J PARKER (Ms)

Assistant Headteacher, Head of Lower School



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