

17th January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find enclosed your child's Curriculum Pathways Booklet and Curriculum Pathways Form. The booklet will provide you and your child with detailed information regarding all of the subjects and qualifications on offer to them when they begin their Key Stage 4 programme of study at the start of Year 9, and the key people to discuss them with.

As you may be aware, educational reforms by the current Government have led to the revision of qualifications and the introduction of new GCSE specifications in the vast majority of subjects.

At the time of writing the Government has released guidance about the proposed content and draft specifications are being prepared by Exam Boards. Due to the timing of the Government's changes and the availability of proposed content, the information contained in the booklet may be subject to change; if this is the case we will inform you as more information is made available.

The Pathways form is for students to indicate their subject choices on and pass back to their Form Tutor. **The form itself clearly defines the pathway that we feel would be most appropriate to your child, in this case one which ensures that your child studies a broad range of GCSE and Technical qualifications including at least one Arts subject.** Below is a reminder of the key dates of the process.

#### The Year 8 Curriculum Pathways Process

##### **Thursday 26th January: Pathways Assembly**

The 'Curriculum Pathways' process will be explained to students on this day in their usual Assembly.

##### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February: Year 8 Curriculum Pathways Evening at 6:00pm – 8:00pm**

At this important event the Headteacher will explain the rationale behind our Year 8 Curriculum Pathways process and you will have an opportunity to explore the different subjects and qualifications on offer at our Subject Marketplace. Staff from all Curriculum areas will be on hand to discuss and share exemplar work from each of the qualifications being offered to students.

##### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Pathways Interviews**

To ensure that all students are supported in making their decisions regarding their future areas of study, all students in Year 8 will be allocated a 10-minute appointment with a senior member of staff. These interviews will give students an opportunity to ask any questions about the subjects on offer, or to find support with any concerns they may have. Students will be issued with appointment cards in their tutor time.

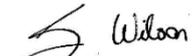
##### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February: Curriculum Pathways Process Closes**

By this date all students will be expected to have handed their completed Curriculum Pathways Form to their Form Tutor in Tutor time.

Once we have received all of the students Curriculum Pathways Forms we will begin the lengthy process of allocating subjects and constructing the timetable for 2017-2018; this information will then be published towards the end of the Summer Term.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the events above, however, if you wish to make contact in the meantime about any Year 8 issues please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sarwar, Head of Year 8, Ms Austin, Assistant Head attached to Year 8, or myself.

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine Wilson  
Deputy Headteacher