

1 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Options

As you may be aware, your child has the opportunity of choosing their KS4 options during the course of Year 8. This is with the aim of ensuring that pupils start Year 9 with purpose, challenge and enjoyment. I am writing to you at this time to explain the timeline for choosing options this year and alerting you to some key dates.

Year 8 pupils can begin to study possible options by looking through the main options booklet which can be found on the school's website under the 'Learning' tab by selecting 'Options' (<https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/learning/options>). Hopefully my introduction will make it clear which subjects are compulsory and which subjects can be optional. We ask that pupils follow a core selection of subjects so that the curriculum they experience is broad and balanced.

- From Monday, 4 March, for two weeks, Year 8 pupils will have 'taster' sessions during normal lessons. This is so that they can experience what some of the new GCSEs are like before making their choices. I would encourage them to ask questions of their teachers so that they are fully informed.
- On Thursday, 7 March Year 8 pupils are invited to attend an Options 'Fayre' in the Main Hall where older pupils will be available to explain their experience of studying GCSE subjects. This will run from 2.45 in the afternoon.
- Finally, a reminder to parents/carers that our information evening is on Thursday, 14 March commencing at 5.30pm. At this meeting the process by which pupils make their choices will be explained. Please let us know if you are able to attend by completing the GoogleForm linked - <https://forms.gle/Gz6KMs9aXWxxx4Qo7>

I know that there is a lot to consider here but please feel free to contact me at the school should you have specific queries. The main thing to do now is for you to consider with your child the information contained in the options booklet mentioned at the beginning and found on the school's website.

Yours faithfully



Mr W Wharton
Deputy Headteacher