

17 January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 8 Options

As you may have seen from December's Parents' newsletter, *SMArtTalk*, we are introducing an Options process for Year 8 pupils. Through this process, Year 8 pupils will have the opportunity to choose some of the subjects they will study in Year 9.

Because we are introducing this system, pupils will be studying fewer subjects in Year 9. This means they will be able to spend more time studying each subject on their timetable. We believe this is important because it means they will be in a better position in Year 10 to tackle the 'broader' subject specifications that have now been introduced at GCSE.

We would like to invite you to an Options Evening when we will explain how this system will work in more detail. As mentioned in December's *SMArtTalk*, this Evening will take place on **Monday 23rd January**. A talk for Year 8 parents will be given in our new Drama Hall at **8:15pm**.

In order to support the Options process, we have agreed to move the Year 8 Parents' Evening to **Tuesday 4th April**. This means that you will have a chance to talk to your son's teachers about their progress in each subject before having to submit the Year 8 Options form.

The key dates in this Options process are therefore as follows:

8:15pm, Monday 23rd January	Talk for all Year 8 parents in the Drama Hall
Monday 6th February	All Year 8 pupils will be given an 'Options Booklet' which explains the process
3:45pm to 6:45pm, Tuesday 4th April	Year 8 Parents' Evening
9:30am, Friday 7th April	Final date for submission of the Year 8 Options form

If I or my colleagues can be of any further help at this time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Brierley
Principal