

8th January 2018

JCO/JSN/GCSE Guided Choices

Dear Parent / Carer

Re GCSE Guided Choices: Key Dates for Year 8 Parents, Carers and Students

Over the next 6 weeks, your child will be involved in a range of activities and events to support him/her to choose which subjects and pathways they will follow through Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11) and therefore what GCSEs and BTEC qualifications they will be examined on at the end of Year 11. This is really important time for your child and we will offer the following events to support you and your child as you make these option choices:-

1. Wednesday 17th January - Year 8 Careers afternoon

- 12.30 p.m. - 2.15 p.m: All Year 8 students will be off timetable and participate in 4 mini workshops based on the following topics:
 - The importance of Languages
 - STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
 - Professional standards
 - Life at University
- 2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m: Parents and carers are invited in to engage in a carousel of industry stands, based in the Academy Lecture Theatre. We anticipate hosting over 20 various companies and organisations who will give an insight in to career requirements within their respective fields. Please note that you are not expected to attend for the whole afternoon- please feel free to drop in when you can, and spend as much time as you like visiting the different stands. In addition to the carousel, there will also be presentations at the following times:
 - 2.30 p.m. - 3.00 p.m: The benefits of a University degree
 - 3.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m: STEM presentation by Tayo Ajasa (Chemical Engineer)

2. Wednesday 24th January - Year 8 Guided Choices Evening

This event is crucial for all parents, carers and students to attend. Teachers of GCSE and BTEC subject will be present with a display presenting information on the content and nature of their subject, helping you to decide if it is a subject your child wish to pursue at Key Stage 4. As this is a very popular event, we break the evening down in the following way:

- 6.00 p.m: Brunel and Da Vinci parents, carers and students arrive for Guided Choices presentation in the Lecture Theatre
- 6.30 p.m: Brunel and Da Vinci parents, carers and students visit the subject displays in the restaurant
- 7.00 p.m: Chaucer and Darwin parents, carers and students arrive for Guided Choices presentation in the Lecture Theatre
- 7.30 p.m: Chaucer and Darwin parents, carers and students visit the subject displays in the restaurant

3. Wednesday 7th February - Year 8 Parent - Teacher afternoon

From 2.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. you will have the opportunity to come in and discuss your child's progress with each of their subject teachers. These discussions will not just include a review of their academic performance, but also a discussion about the GCSE pathway in that subject if you are considering it as an option. As the form tutors have oversight of their tutee's subject

choices, there is also the option of making an appointment with them during this session to resolve any queries you may have.

4. Thursday 22nd February - Deadline for Year 8 Guided Choices forms to tutors

The Guided Choices sheet with the 4 chosen subjects and a reserve subject choice should be completed and handed in to the form tutor. The process of formulating the timetable for the 2018/19 academic year then begins with the aim of giving students all 4 of their subject choices. Please note that while we do have a 95% success rate in doing this, there is the odd occasion when we have to request students change a subject choice due to the limitations of timetabling.

I do hope to see you at all of the three parent/carer events coming up over the next few weeks and we look forward to supporting you and your child through this very important process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Collins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julia Collins
Principal