

JMD/lrr

March 2022

Hall Road, Northfleet
Kent DA11 8AQ
t: 01474 831020
f: 01474 335058
e: info@nsfg.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Norwood B.Ed (Hons) MA

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 GCSE Options Process

GCSEs have evolved to become far more content driven. With some subject content almost doubling over recent years, or including A-level knowledge. There is less controlled assessment and coursework content meaning the emphasis now tends to be on end of course exams, which are worth a higher percentage of the final grade (in some cases 100%). In order to secure the best chances and choices, we feel our students need more time to complete these new GCSEs.

We have therefore made the decision to move to a three-year Key Stage 4 programme, meaning students will start their GCSEs in Year 9. A number of our local schools have already made the transition to this model, and feedback is very positive. Schools that we have consulted with have reported that student progress and engagement has improved and that teaching staff felt that this change has allowed them more time to cover the GCSE syllabus content, and to prepare the students better for exams more rigorously.

Additional benefits of a three year GCSE model include allowing subjects more opportunity to explore the subject fully and develop student's enjoyment of the subject. It will allow teachers to prepare for exams more thoroughly with guided revision and allow time for extra opportunity to explore higher level content, preparing students to gain higher grades. We also believe by beginning the process earlier it will give our Year 8 students a focus and drive and allow students to gain a greater depth of their subjects.

This term we begin the option process via options activities and career support in base time. We will also be holding extended assemblies and Dream Big option taster sessions to explore the GCSE options on offer to your child.

We warmly invite you along to our Year 8 Options Evening this term where more information will be available to support your child in selecting their options.

Year 8 GCSE Options Evening

Thursday 24 March 2022 at 5.45pm

During this evening you will be invited to speak directly to specialist GCSE teachers and subject leaders about the individual courses on offer. We very much look forward to discussing the process with you and your child.

Your child will not be selecting any options until after the Options evening and they are fully informed of the options on offer. In the meantime, if there are any questions you have on any of the details in this letter please do not hesitate to make contact with the school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Dowden
AHT Curriculum