



February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Curriculum Developments

As a result of GCSE courses becoming much more rigorous - and in line with the recent GCSE changes - last year we made the decision for students to commence the learning of certain GCSE subjects at the start of Year 9. This is necessary to adequately prepare them for the new linear curriculum and ultimately ensure that they achieve the highest possible grade by the end of Year 11.

The Year 9 curriculum will include Key Stage 3 maths, English, core PE, computing, Citizenship, DTVA and the modern foreign language they are currently studying. With students studying GCSE content in science and humanities. As part of this there will be some flexibility in the following subject areas:

- **Humanities:** students can choose from either geography **or** history
- **PE and Performing Arts:** students can choose **one option** of either extra PE **or** music **or** drama
- **Design & Technology and Visual Arts:** students can choose **two options and a reserve** (option 1 will be guaranteed) of either hospitality & catering **or** product design **or** art **or** photography

In this week's assembly I discussed these options with the students and provided information about each possible choice. Over the coming week, students will receive further information during lessons and have opportunities to discuss their choices with their teachers at parents evening.

There will also be an opportunity for each student to have a one to one discussion with their tutor about their potential choices and look at which courses are most suitable to them. Following this, students will be asked to select the choices they wish to make. This will be done online through a link sent via email. A summary of the timeline can be found below.

Further details about the school's curriculum offer can be found in our Curriculum Policy document which can be accessed through the link below:

http://heanorgate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Curriculum_Policy_2020-21_onwards.pdf

Alternatively, please contact the Curriculum Team Leaders listed below if you have any specific questions about a particular subject.

Please submit options through the following link:

<https://forms.gle/VNTVaXtkyt3PvR3q6>

Yours sincerely

Miss L Hulland
Achievement Leader Year 8



Curriculum Team Leaders

Humanities: Charlotte Harris

CharlotteHarris@heanorgatespencer.com

PE and Performing Arts: Rob Fretwell

RobertFretwell@heanorgatespencer.com

Design & Technology and Visual Arts: Jessica Oliver

JessOliver@heanorgatespencer.com

The Timeline

Tuesday 1 February: Year 8 Assembly on Year 9 choices and video posted on the Google Classroom

Thursday 10 February: Year 8 Parents evening - opportunity to discuss with subject teachers

Monday 14 February - Friday 4 March: all Year 8 students to have a geography and a history taster lesson in their normal live lesson time (in depth discussion on what the GCSE course covers).

Monday 7 March: Deadline for students to enter choices via the online link.