

17 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer of a Year 8 pupil

As you may be aware, your son or daughter has the opportunity of choosing their 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.

The main Options booklet 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. The Options booklet is now available on the website and we ask that parents and pupils consider all subjects included over the February half term break.

Parents will notice at the end of the booklet a link to a Google Form. This link will take them to a Form whereby pupils can choose which Option subjects to take into Year 9. There is no urgency to complete this Form yet and I will post a screencast on the school's website explaining the mechanics of filling the Form at the beginning of March. The deadline for the form to be completed is 21 March 2022

When pupils return on Monday 28 February they will have two weeks of '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.

Year 8 pupils will then have a Careers Day on 14th March run by the Education Business Partnership (EBP) which will give them space to consider their potential careers and how the Options process might fit into their planning.

Further to this focus on researching and choosing Options, parents and pupils will find on the school's website screencasts from each subject area in the school. These screencasts can be found under the 'Options' page of the website (as linked above) and have been created so that parents and pupils can glean an insight into the different subjects at their leisure in order to fully inform their choices.



Finally, I would re-iterate that, once you have viewed my screencast on the mechanics of filling in the Google Form (which will be posted around the beginning of March), you complete the Form by Monday 21 March so that we can start our Year 9 curriculum planning for September.

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 son/daughter 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

