



THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL
CAD/dah

20th April 2020

Dear Year 8 parent,

RE: Options process

As you will be aware we were in the midst of preparing Year 8 for the options process at the time of school closure due to coronavirus. Up until the closure the pupils had:

- Been completing packs in tutor time to get them thinking about what choices they might want to make and why, linking into their ideas about the future
- A series of assemblies from all of the Heads of departments or teachers, explaining each of the subjects that they can choose from
- An 'Options surgery' with Year 11 where they were able to look at the work completed on each course, and talk to Year 11 students about what they have enjoyed and what the lessons/courses are like

Unfortunately due to the school closure, there were two really important dates for yourselves that we have not been able to hold:

- Year 8 Parents' evening with all subject teachers, and
- Looking forward evening where you listen to subject staff and receive advice from myself on the process

I had been hoping that at the start of the Easter holiday we may have had a clearer idea on the return date to school, however that is still uncertain. Therefore there are currently two plans for how the options process will continue:

1. **If we return at the start of/or during Term 6 (June/July)** – we will try to hold the evenings that were planned (or even combine them into one if social distancing rules allow us to do this). Students will then choose their options to start in September as we planned, and we will use term 6 to complete the Key Stage 3 curriculum with them.
2. **If 'normal' school does not restart until September for all pupils** – we will delay the start of the GCSE courses until January 2021. This will allow us to ensure that the Key Stage 3 curriculum is completed by current Year 8 students between September and December, and will allow for Parents' evenings and Looking forwards evening to be held in Term 1.

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I hope that this explains the way of thinking as I realise that students and yourselves will have been thinking about completing the process. Unfortunately it is difficult to make any firm decisions when so much remains uncertain, but hopefully by giving two scenarios you will be able to discuss it with the students. The key aspects that we want to avoid are creating undue stress by making students choose options without your full involvement and the chance to discuss with teaching staff, and starting the GCSE courses before we are satisfied that the Key Stage 3 curriculum is fully covered.

Obviously if things become clearer I will update you again, and will also work on getting the Options booklet set out to you so that you can peruse the courses in the meantime with the students.

Yours sincerely,

C A Dean
Deputy Headteacher

