



Year 8 Information Evening

March 2018



New Specifications

- GCSE grades have changed and are now 9 (Top) to 1 (Low)
- Courses are now more challenging and have more content
- There are now more exams and less coursework
- Fewer vocational subjects
- Alternatives to GCSE include BTEC (Technical Award) and CiDA and these are recognised equivalents

GCSE A*-G/1-9 Equivalent

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|----|------------------------------------|
| New GCSE Grades | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Old GCSE Grades | F/G | E | D | Bottom 2 thirds C | Bottom third B Top third C | B Top 2 thirds | A | A* | A* Top 20% Grade A and above |



Academic Rigour

- Government expectations have changed and there is an increased desire to see more pupils take academic qualifications so that as a country we go up the international league tables
- There is an expectation from the government that 90% of pupils within this year group are entered for EBACC
- EBACC involves taking a English; Maths; Science; a Language and a Humanities subject (either Geography or History)
- Achieving the EBACC would involve achieving a Grade 4 or above in each subject
- Our expectations are that the vast majority of this year group will therefore opt to take both a language and either History or Geography



But why study these subjects...

- Breadth of academic knowledge
- University requirements (Russell Group particularly)
- Language assists other subject knowledge development
- Increased career opportunities (global)
- Holidays!



Our Curriculum

- Move to a 3 year KS4
- Addresses the increased content and challenge
- Retains the opportunity for pupils to study 4 options and therefore retains 'choice'
- Depending on the subject, some subjects could therefore start the GCSE Course formally either at the start of Year 9, at Christmas or the latest at Easter
- For those subjects which decided to start formally later on in the year the first part of the year will be spent focussing on developing the skills required for GCSE



What does this look like in reality for my child

| Subject | Hours per week (Y9) | Hours per week (Y10) | Hours per week (Y11) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| English | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Maths | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Science | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Religious Studies (RS) | 2 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Physical Education (core) | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| PSHCE | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Option A | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Option B | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Option C | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Option D | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Total | 25 | 25 | 25 |



What subjects are currently offered...

- Art
- Business Studies
- Child Development
- Computer Science
- Design Technology (Textiles; Graphics; or RM)
- Drama or BTEC Performing Arts (Acting)
- French, Spanish and Italian
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- ICT (CiDA)
- Media Studies
- Music or BTEC Music Technology
- Physical Education or BTEC Sports Studies
- Triple Science
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Further Maths
- DoE Award Scheme

All available from Y10



Next Steps...

- Full Options Information Evening in early May
– information to be sent out after Easter Holidays
- Options submitted by May half-term
- Timetable allocations sorted in June
- Pupils informed of course early July
- Courses start September 2018



Questions...

