

3rd February 2017

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

Year 8 Options Process 2017

As you will be aware, it is time for Year 8 students to make option choices for their courses in Year 9. Traditionally, schools run a three-year Key Stage 3, but in line with research into best practice, we have decided to complete ours in two years. This means that students will have a three-year Key Stage 4, which we consider to be in their best interests, as it will allow them to achieve the best possible results in their core and chosen subjects at the end of Year 11.

In order to prepare students and parents / carers for these choices, we would like to invite you to a special options talk during the parents consultation evening on **Thursday 9th March from 6.00pm - 6.30pm** in the theatre. During this presentation by Mr Williams, myself and Miss Williams, all parents evening conversations will be suspended for you to attend the talk. Over the course of the evening, you will of course have the opportunity to speak to individual subject teachers about the range of courses on offer.

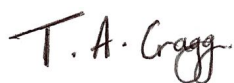
In addition to the above, the students will participate in an options conference, also on Thursday 9th March, which will include key information about the options process, a chance to speak to some of the current Year 10 students at the Academy about their experiences, and a series of taster lessons in subjects they have not yet studied.

During the daytime event, students will receive an **options brochure**. Could I strongly encourage you not only to read this brochure yourselves, but also to discuss it carefully with your son / daughter, bearing in mind that decisions depend on factors such as personal preference, particular aptitude and ability, and preparation for a career or further study which may demand specific qualifications. Moreover, it is essential that the appropriate amount of time is taken in making these decisions, as changes to option choices **will not be permitted** once option forms have been handed in.

Please note that students who are Music Scholars, in accordance with the expectations laid out at the point of application and entry to the Academy, will study GCSE Music as one of their three option subjects. Therefore, these students should ensure that GCSE Music is ticked on the options form.

I hope that your son / daughter will have little difficulty in making relevant choices. Please be assured that we will do our utmost to provide all the subjects offered and to accommodate all reasonable choices, subject to any financial, staffing or timetable constraints. If you have any questions at all regarding the above information, or Key Stage 4 options in general, please do not hesitate to call me at the Academy, or email me at thomas.cragg@chelsea-academy.org. Alternatively, students may wish to speak to their Head of Year or Learning Coaches for advice. I look forward to seeing you on Thursday 9th March.

Yours sincerely



Mr T Cragg, Vice Principal