

24 March 2026

Year 8 Options Process – Information Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to share a brief update regarding the Year 8 options process.

We are very proud of the curriculum offer we provide for GCSE (or equivalent) study and are looking forward to sharing this with you in more detail at our in-person Options Information Evening on Thursday 23rd April. This will be an important opportunity for you and your child to speak directly with subject teachers, learn more about each course, and ask any questions you may have.

We would also like to take a moment to recognise what an impressive year group this is. Their effort, behaviour, and positive attitude to learning have been excellent, and this gives us great confidence as they begin to make these important choices. It is an exciting stage in their education, and we are very much looking forward to the opportunities and successes that lie ahead for them.

We recognise that choosing options can be an exciting time, but also one that can feel daunting for students and for you as parents and carers. For many of you, this will be a completely new experience, although we appreciate that some families will have been through the process before with older children.

However, we wanted to highlight that there are some **changes to the curriculum offer compared to previous years**. These will be explained fully during the presentations at the Options Evening, but we felt it would be helpful to share a brief outline following on from this week's Subject Consultation Evening.

Curriculum Structure

Students will study a combination of core and optional subjects for the full three-year Key Stage 4 programme.

Core Subjects (compulsory for all students):

- English Literature
- English Language
- Maths
- Science – triple or combined (exact pathway confirmed at the end of Year 9 based on individual progress)

Optional Subjects:

- Two *guided* choices
- Two *open* choices

Guided Choice 1 – Humanities	Guided Choice 2 – Language or Creative	Free Choice 3	Free Choice 4
• Geography • History • Religious Studies*	• French • Spanish • Dance • Drama • Music • Fine Art • Graphics	• All other subjects, including additional humanities, language or creative options	• All other subjects, including additional humanities, language or creative options

** Previously a core subject that all students were required to continue at GCSE, Religious Studies is now offered as an optional humanities subject. The rationale for this change will be outlined during the Options Evening presentation.*

Following the Easter break, students will attend an assembly on **Monday 13th April** where the process will be explained to them in detail. They will also receive a hard copy of the options booklet to bring home. In addition, students will spend time during their ICT lessons that week exploring potential career pathways using Unifrog. We will share further information and resources related to this with you after these sessions.

We hope this initial overview will help to support ongoing conversations over the Easter break and we are very much looking forward to seeing you there in person at the Options Information Evening.

Tickets for the Options Information Evening can be booked [here](#), entering the password OptionsSA26

Yours faithfully,



Laura Watt

Interim Vice Principal (Academic)