

11th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 pupils,

Year 11 Curriculum for 2020/21

Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who responded to our consultation on the proposal to reduce the number of options your child will study in Year 11 from four options to three options. We had responses from nearly half the year group; 75% agreed with the proposal, 15% disagreed and 10% neither agreed nor disagreed. The responses from the consultation were discussed at length with the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Faculty and the School's Governors. Careful consideration was also given to all the information available from the Department for Education and the Exam Boards at this time and we also waited for the Prime Minister's announcement last night before making the final decision.

It is clear that there will be continued disruption to the learning of all our pupils. There is still no definite date when secondary schools will fully open again, only mention that pupils in exam years may see their teachers before the end of term. This will inevitably have a considerable impact on our Year 10 students at a critical time in their education and we remain very concerned about their workload and wellbeing. Therefore after much discussion following our consultation with you, we have taken the decision to go ahead with the proposal and reduce the number of option subjects our pupils study in Year 11 from four options to three options. This will enable us to provide more time for pupils to complete the schemes of work in nine subjects and to address any gaps in knowledge and understanding from their remote learning during the lockdown.

The next step, is to ask all Parents and Carers to complete this form <https://bit.ly/2YThC6W>, to give their first and second preference for the option subject their child will stop studying. If you did respond to the consultation and specified two options subjects then these will be taken as your choices; there is no need for you to complete this form again unless you would like to make any changes. If you did not respond to the consultation please do complete the form by 5pm on Friday 15th May.

The final decision of which option subject your child will not continue studying will be taken in negotiation with subject teachers and senior leaders to ensure that your child continues to study a compliant and broad curriculum. This means that your child will need to continue with one of either History, Geography or French as one of their three options; they can continue with more than one of these subjects if they want to.

I hope to confirm your child's options before the end of this half term. We will then start the modified curriculum after the May half term break on 1st June. In the meantime, your child should continue with the work set in all of their subjects up until the end of this half term.

Yours faithfully

Joy Langley
Senior Vice Principal – Curriculum and Standards