

21st April 2017

To: Parents of Pupils in Year 8



Dear Parents

Changes to Year 8 – September 2017

I am writing to inform you of some changes to the current Year 8 group for the next academic year.

Firstly, the whole senior school will be reverting to a one-week timetable. We believe this will be helpful to pupils and make organisation easier; less to remember, a one-week homework timetable and a more familiar pattern.

Additionally, as there are a good number of sportsmen and women in the group, we would like to continue to take them off site for team games practice on Thursday afternoons, as they currently do in Year 8.

These two things have necessitated some curriculum tweaks, the most significant of which affects Modern Languages (French and Spanish).

We aspire to giving more teaching time to languages in the run up to the GCSE course, to enable the department to teach the increased content of the new specifications. To facilitate this, we are proposing to give the children four lessons a week of ONE language- either French or Spanish. This will be their choice and both languages will run.

We recognise that some pupils are gifted linguists and they would wish to continue through to GCSE with both languages, or at least a choice of both languages. To find the curriculum time for the dual linguists there will be an extra French group taking place on a Thursday afternoon during the extra-curricular games session, plus a compulsory lunchtime. This means that dual linguists will not benefit from the additional games, though this would not preclude them from the teams representing the schools at fixtures.

These changes do not affect those who have already opted out of all MFL and who do extra Maths and English instead; this will continue. Those who do one language with XME currently however, will need to choose between the XME or the continuing language.

It will need to be borne in mind that the decisions the children make this year will affect their GCSE choices. If they do not opt for the language for Year 9, they will not be able to make that choice at GCSE.

If you would like to discuss these changes, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Alternatively, if you would like more information on your son/daughter' academic potential in either of the two language subjects, please contact Mrs Twomey (French) or Mrs Kara (Spanish).

Please complete the pro-forma attached to confirm your intentions regarding the above, which will enable us to make the required timetable changes. Please complete and return this form to your child's Form Teacher by Wednesday 26th April 2017.

Yours sincerely

Mrs P Hutley
Headmistress



Changes to Year 8 – September 2017

Child's Name: _____

Form: _____

I can confirm that I have read and understand the changes that are going to take place to the current Year 8 for the next academic year.

I would like my son/daughter to study:

(Please circle the option you would like):

French

Spanish

French and Spanish

XME

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return to your child's Form Teacher by Wednesday 26th April 2017