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Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you that we have concluded the comprehensive curriculum review completed just prior to lockdown and can now report the outcomes. This review included extensive research, as well as feedback from our subject specialists and young people in some of the older year groups. As a result of this review, we have taken the decision with our Local Governing Body to make a change to the structure of our curriculum for September 2020 and will be moving to a 3-year Key Stage 3.

Building on the successful implementation of our year 7 and year 8 curriculum, this revised structure will allow us launch our new year 9 curriculum which we believe has the potential to further expand our young peoples' horizons. Our approach we enable us to:

- Further develop the depth at which our young people study the full range of National Curriculum subjects;
- Deepen learning and embed knowledge thus providing young people with a greater experience of each subject from which to make informed option choices.

In the core subjects of English, maths and science, all young people will continue to follow a five-year curriculum. The year 9 programme will however be adjusted to ensure that we continue to develop new knowledge and skills by exploring further ambitious content aligned to the National Curriculum, without an early focus on GCSE content.

All students in year 9 will continue to study geography, history, RE, languages, computing and PE before making Level 2 course choices. We have made this decision to further enhance their understanding of these individual subjects, as well as to support them to develop a deeper, more lasting, knowledge and a love of learning in these disciplines, prior to making option choices.

To allow greater experience of the arts and technology subjects young people will be given the opportunity to specialise in these subjects during year 9. We will also be offering the opportunity to continue to study their second foreign language if students began this in year 8. More information will be shared with you shortly on how to make these selections for the year 9 curriculum.

As a result of this review, students will now complete the Pathways Options process during Year 9 and will begin their new Level 2 (GCSE / Vocational) courses at the start of Year 10. During the coming year, we will provide opportunities for youngsters to learn more about the Level 2 courses available, to help inform decisions and test out interests before the final selection process. We will work closely with your child to ensure that we take a bespoke approach that is guided to best suit them and their aptitude for each subject on offer. We continue to promote a broad and balanced curriculum approach and we will work closely with you to ensure that your child is informed and able to make the choices that are most appropriate to secure positive outcomes to equip them for their future.





We look forward to expanding horizons through our curriculum offer and will be in contact again soon to provide you with information needed to make the choices within the Arts and Technology subjects for Year 9.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Appleyard

Deputy Headteacher

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