8th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is an exciting time for all our Year 8 students as we start the process which will lead to them to make their Key Stage 4 course choices in March. There are lots of opportunities for students to get help, support, and guidance during this term. This includes form time sessions, assemblies, taster lessons in new subjects and guidance interviews with senior members of the school staff.

We trialed a simplified process last year following feedback from parents; this worked well and remains in place going forward. All the key information will be available in our comprehensive Course Choices booklet. Students will be issued with paper copies of these booklets during form time and the booklets will also be available to download from the school website.

For your information I have included a schedule of events which will take place to enable you and your child to make the best decisions over the coming months.

Year 8 Course Choice Process 2024

8th February: Initial launch assembly for students
12th to 16th February: Tutorial programme – Your Choices and Your Future
26th February – 8th March: Taster lessons
29th February: Assembly 2 (AM)
29th February: Booklets and pathway information released (PM)
29th February: Booklets available online
1st to 14th March: Opportunity for 1-1 guidance interviews
14th March: Year 8 parents' evening **18th March: Deadline for course choice forms to be returned to tutors**24th May: Confirmation letters sent home
July: Year half moves to facilitate option choices completed
October: Course change window (subject to availability)

* Dates are estimates and may need to change

From 20th February onwards we will also have a dedicated email address for all non-subject related option queries <u>coursechoices@hbk.acesmat.uk</u>. I look forward to helping your son/daughter to make their decisions to ensure that they can achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Pinder Vice Principal

