



The Matthew Arnold School

Part of the Bourne Education Trust



25th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

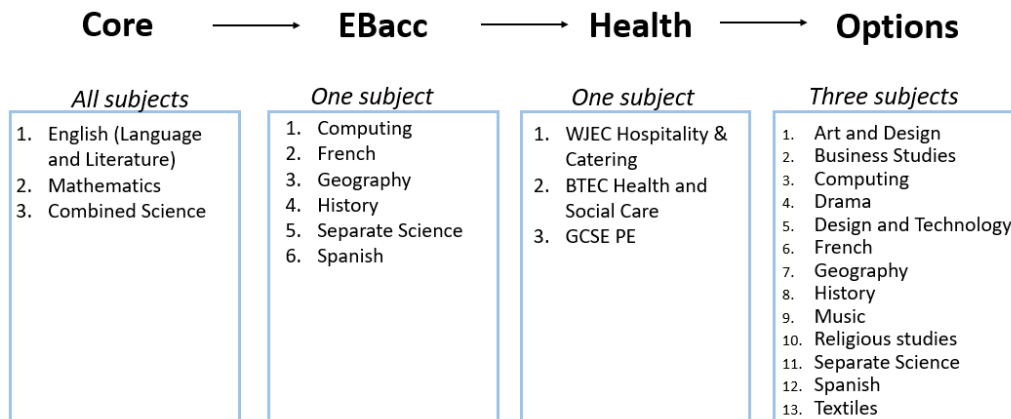
Year 8 options process for GCSE subjects

This term marks the start of the GCSE options process for our year 8 students. Due to the nature of students not being in school, we will be running the initial stages virtually. We are aware of the significance of this process and take it very seriously indeed. Students follow a rigorous system to determine the best combination of subjects for them as individuals to take at GCSE, whilst at the same time ensuring that their curriculum experience at school is broad, balanced and enjoyable.

Some key dates to note are as follows:

- **Monday 25th January** - Options process introduction to students in assembly
- **Monday 22nd February** - Options evening for parents (via Zoom)
- **Monday 1st March to Friday 5th March** – Subject taster sessions in lessons
- **Monday 9th March** - Careers event
- **Thursday 25th March** - Parents' evening
- **Friday 2nd April** - Final options forms deadline

The diagram below highlights the choice available for our students. We advise parents and carers to spend time at home discussing options in order to support students in making an informed decision. An options booklet will be provided to students detailing course details for each subject.



I understand some parents and carers are surprised at how early we begin this process. The aim is to give students ample opportunity and time to consider their choices to make the most appropriate decisions. There will also be the opportunity to discuss any worries with the tutors, Mr Saunders or myself.

If you have any immediate questions please contact me or Mr Saunders, Head of Year 8.

Thank you for your continued support with The Matthew Arnold School.



Yours sincerely



Mr G Watts | Director of Science and Careers Lead