



Year 8 GCSE Option Choices

15/01/2024

Dear Parent and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on how we are currently supporting your child as Year 8 begin the Key Stage 4 option choice process. As a school we value your support and guidance during this process and encourage that you discuss initial thoughts on option choices with your child.

During December and January, subject leaders will be addressing the year group in assemblies outlining the courses available to them next year. This includes a variety of subjects already studied e.g. Geography, Languages, Music, Drama and Art and others that are new to them e.g. Computer Science, Photography and Business. They have also been given information about vocational subjects e.g. BTEC Sport. A copy of the Options Learning Pathways Booklet will be put onto the school website in January to help both students and parents make the appropriate informed option choices prior to the options evening.

Students will be asked to make their option choices within the window **22nd January to 28th January 2024**. The system will not go live until this window. This will help determine the number of groups allocated for each subject and the final option blocks. Within the window **29th January to 2nd February 2024** form tutors will discuss individual option choices with students to help ensure they have chosen appropriately. This window will also provide students with an opportunity to reflect upon their initial choices. Between **5th February to 9th February 2024**, there will be a short window should students wish to make any final changes to their initial choices. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available at this time should any additional support in making choices be required. Mr. G Locke our Careers Wales advisors at Llanishen High, will also be supporting the students with the process. A full year 8 into year 9 GCSE Options Timeline will be sent out with this letter.

I would like to invite you to the Year 8 into 9 Learning Pathways Evening on **Monday 22nd January 6-7pm** in the West Wing Hall. This evening will provide an opportunity for parents to learn about the options process, the support that is being offered and how to complete your child's option choices. Each student will also receive an electronic copy of the Options Learning Pathways Booklet that will outline course information on all subjects offered. This will be emailed to them and will also be available on the school website.

Please do not hesitate to contact either myself using my email address joshua.owen@llanishen.cardiff.sch.uk, Mrs Tri Beck k.beck@llanishen.cardiff.sch.uk, Miss Rachel Evans rachel.evans@llanishen.cardiff.sch.uk or your child's form tutor, should you have any further questions.

May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support since September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Owen: Head of year 8

Mrs T. Beck: Progress & Achievement Leader year 8

Miss R. Evans: Assistant Headteacher and Senior Link to Year 8