



Diocese of St. Albans



St. Mary's
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

29 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 8 Progression Information Evening – Thursday 19th April, 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

As you are aware, when your son / daughter is in Year 9 they will be making decisions about the subjects they want to study in Years 10 and 11. This is a particularly important process as it will determine their courses in which they will take exams at the end of Year 11. These choices will have a significant impact on their learning pathways and Post 16 opportunities.

In order to support the increased subject content and rigour in the new GCSE examinations, we start the process of providing some subject choice and reducing the number of subjects studied-in Year 8.

All Year 8 parents/carers are asked to attend our **Progression Information Evening** that will take place on Thursday 19th April with their child.

There will be a presentation in the Main Hall that will start promptly at 6.00pm. The presentation will include the following information:

- The changing National picture and increased expectations of the new GCSE examinations (Mrs Watts)
- Rationale for making choices and how the process works (Mr Tilbury)
- The importance of literacy and numeracy (Ms Cunningham and Mrs Johnston)

Ahead of the evening, it would be helpful to start discussing with your son/daughter what their aspirations for the future are, whether they may have plans to go to University or into apprenticeship/training programmes and which particular employment sectors may be of interest to them. This should then inform their subject choices.

Your son / daughter will need to remain in education or training until the age of 18 and so will need to consider how options chosen now will influence their future career plans.

We ask for your strongest support by attending this important evening and look forward to seeing you.

May I also take this opportunity to bring to your attention the **Year 8 examination week commencing on Monday 23rd April**. Teachers have been encouraged to place revision resources on SMHW, may I ask for your support in encouraging your son/daughter to complete some revision over Easter. A letter and timetable will be published early in the summer term. Students will follow a normal timetable for the week, with exams scheduled during their normal lesson times in the Main Hall and in classrooms.

Yours faithfully

S Tilbury

Mr S Tilbury
Assistant Head Teacher

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'A good school' Ofsted January 2015
'An outstanding church school' SIAMS May 2015

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