



Diocese of St. Albans



ST MARY'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

25 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 8 Progression into Year 9

In the coming weeks, your son/daughter will be asked to make some decisions that will enable them to personalise their curriculum next year. This process will help them to tailor their Year 9 curriculum to the subjects they enjoy and are good at without the formality of starting GCSE subjects. In a year's time, when your son/daughter is in Year 9, they will then be making more formal decisions about the subjects they would like to study in Years 10 and 11. This is a particularly important process as it will determine their courses in which they will take examinations at the end of Year 11 and will have significant impact on their learning pathways and Post 16 opportunities.

In order to support the process of personalising the curriculum for Year 9, **all Year 8 parents/carers are asked to view an on-line presentation in order to understand the curriculum choices and opportunities your child will experience next year.**

The on-line presentation can be accessed following this link: [Year 8 Progression Presentation](#)

The presentation includes the following information:

- The changing National picture and increased expectations of the new GCSE examinations
- Rationale for making choices and how the process works
- Subject information to support the selection process
- New subject choices in Year 9

There is a booklet attached with this letter that provides further information about the progression routes their subject choices could take them. The booklet includes information on the current GCSE offer and provides an insight into these subjects. It is important that students read the entire booklet and each GCSE option available to them, **because not selecting subjects in Year 9 consequently means that students will not be able to study that subject in Year 10-11.** However, it is also important to note that with constant governmental changes regarding subject accreditation, this may result in some changes to courses for 2021-23.

Ahead of watching the presentation with your child, please start to discuss their aspirations for the future, 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. Students will also be supported by their year team during tutorials to support the progression process and have also recently watched a presentation led by the University of Hertfordshire on 'Steps to Success'.

Your son / daughter will need to remain in education or training until the age of 18 and so will need to consider how choices made during this process will influence their future career plans. We ask for your strongest support in watching the presentation and helping us to guide your son/daughter through this process.

Continued...

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'Students feel happy and safe at school' OFSTED (2019)

'An exceptionally inclusive and caring community' SIAMS Inspection (2020)

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Once your son/daughter is confident about which subjects to select, please complete the online form that can be found [here](#). Alternatively, please scan this QR code using your smart device.



Yours faithfully

*E
Watts*

S Tilbury

Mrs E Watts
Deputy Head Teacher

Mr Simon Tilbury
Deputy Head Teacher