January 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: Year 8 Options

Our Year 8 students will be making their GCSE options selections this Spring. With this in mind, I would like to extend two invitations to you:

* I wish to invite you to our Year 8 Options Evening on Wednesday 23rd January at 7.00 pm. The move to a three-year GCSE means that you and your child need to make some important decisions in the coming weeks. We aim to ensure that both you and your child are well informed, so that you can help them make the choices most suited to their aptitudes and future ambitions. There are several exciting changes that have recently taken place in secondary education. We will update you on these changes and on how they affect your child’s education. If you are unable to attend the meeting, the information will be available in our Options Booklet. The presentation from the Options Evening will also be posted on the school website. It is not necessary for your child to attend this meeting as they will have already had an assembly earlier in the day, explaining the choices they face. However, if you would prefer that they attend, you are welcome to bring them along. There will be representatives at the meeting from several sixth form providers, together with an independent careers advisor from Prospects Services Limited who will be on hand to offer advice and guidance.
* I would also like to invite you into school on Friday 25th January to discuss your child’s choices with a senior member of staff. This is an opportunity for you, your child and the Senior Team to arrive at the best choice of subjects for your child. The time slot you have been allocated will follow the appointment that you have been allocated with your child’s form tutor (for the purposes of academic review day). Specific details of these times will be sent to you early next week. We **do not** expect you to confirm your attendance at your options meeting slot. If you are unable to keep the appointment, you are invited to come into school between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm on Friday 1st February when you will be seen on a first come, first served basis. Your child should accompany you to the options meeting, which will take place in the E-zone.

Our Options Booklets will be distributed to year 8 students on Wednesday 23rd January and sent to you via parent mail. The Options Booklets will have a student options form attached, which should be submitted to Mrs Bootle **by** **Friday 1st March**, either electronically or in paper form.

Please find a summary of key dates below:

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| Options Assembly (students only) | Wednesday 23rd January |
| Options Evening (for parents and students) | Wednesday 23rd January, 7.00 pm-8.00 pm |
| Parent/Student Interviews with Senior Team | Friday 25th January (during Academic Review Day) |
| Year 8 Parents’ Evening | Thursday 7th February, 3.45 pm – 6.30 pm |
| Deadline for handing in completed Options Forms | Friday 1st March |
| Confirmation of student choices | May 2019 |

Should you have any queries regarding any of the above, please email me at smcconnell@hornchurchhigh.com

Yours faithfully,



S McConnell

Deputy Head Teacher