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Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to inform you of a change to the options process for our current Y8 students. In previous years, our students have gone through the options process in Y8 and gone on to study these subjects in Y9. Whilst we feel that this was the correct decision at the time we now believe that it is in the best interest of our students to go through the options process in Y9 and begin studying their options subjects in Y10.

The reason for this change is that we believe that our curriculum should offer the widest possible range of subjects for as long as possible. This also recognises that our Y8 students may find it difficult to make decisions which affects their future so early in their secondary school journey. This view is also backed up by the below-linked Ofsted article:

<https://educationinspection.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/09/making-curriculum-decisions-in-the-best-interests-of-children/>

This change is not linked to the current school closure or the ongoing uncertainty with COVID-19. Please contact me should you wish to discuss the content of this letter further.

Yours Sincerely

Mr J. Whitehead

Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum and Standards