

January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update all Year 8 parents about the changes to the current GCSE options process for your child in selecting their qualifications to be sat in 2021. As an Academy we constantly review the curriculum we offer to our young people and we must ensure that the qualifications on offer enable students the greatest breadth of opportunity in their future pathways in education, and on into employment. Due to the current uncertainty from the DfE as to which qualifications are to be offered, the Academy has decided to delay the Year 8 options process until February 2019 when your child is in Year 9. This will mean that students follow the traditional route of completing their GCSE studies over two years.

The DfE has indicated that there is likely to be significant change to what is included in the qualifications list for examination in 2021. This means potentially brand-new qualifications included in performance tables for 2020 are updated or even removed for the following year's performance tables (2021 results).

The latest DfE bulletin released in November 2017 has also told us that they intend to review the criteria for qualifications awarded in 2021, and this may mean significant changes to subject content, and to which qualifications are included from 2021 results onwards. We are hoping to hear more about the new criteria before the end of the summer term 2018 and we will let you know as soon as we know more.

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/btec/btec-information-hub/news-and-policy/performance-measures.html>

I hope you agree that it would be detrimental for your child's education to start qualifications this September not knowing whether the subject or the content studied will be available for students completing their studies in 2021.

Please feel free to contact either Mrs Topsom, the Academy office or myself if you require any more information regarding the options process.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Evans  
**Assistant Vice-Principal  
Curriculum**

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