

Haileybury Turnford

Ambition · Pride · Success

14th January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

KS4 Options for students currently in Year 8

I am writing following my previous letter dated 14th October 2019, when I highlighted that the school is reviewing its curriculum. As part of this review, we have considered the length of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and when students choose their Options to study to the end of Year 11. At present, Year 8 students choose their Key Stage 4 Options in the Spring Term each year.

The guiding principles of our curriculum are to ensure that we provide a broad and balanced, yet ambitious curriculum for all students, which provides opportunities for them to achieve their full potential, alongside developing their character and ensuring their physical, and emotional wellbeing.

The decision has been made to move to a three-year Key Stage 3 and a two-year Key Stage 4. This curriculum intent has been approved by the governing body. This means that your child will not be making their Options Choices this term, but will instead continue with the full Key Stage 3 curriculum until the end of Year 9. The Key Stage 4 Options Process will therefore take place in March 2021.

While a three-year Key Stage 4 model has some benefits it is felt that now is the right time to adapt this for the following reasons.

Firstly, a three-year KS3 ensures all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum where they can deepen their knowledge and skills across a wide range of subjects, complemented by programmes for development of character, cultural capital and their physical and emotional wellbeing. This provides time for students to make informed decisions about future choices.

Secondly, our current curriculum provision has meant a reduction in the number and range of subjects that students are exposed to and they are forced to make choices early, when they do not always have the maturity or knowledge of what such restrictions may mean for later study. This lack of maturity has also been a factor in that topics and units have to be retaught/recovered in greater depth again within Key Stage 4 and we feel such replication does not extend or fully develop all of our students in the way we wish.

Finally, we see Key Stage 3 as the building block for students to develop the foundations of their knowledge, skills and understanding and to prepare them for the rigours of Key Stage 4. By having a three-year Key Stage 3, students have the time to embed and practice skills, develop a broader cultural knowledge and vocabulary and be best prepared for informed decision making. Students will gain exposure to a knowledge rich curriculum which is coherently and sequentially planned and which supports memory and cognition retrieval in preparation for Key Stage 4.

We have explained these changes to Year 8 students in Assembly this morning.

To provide further information, and answer any questions you may have there will be a Parent Information Event on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 5.30pm. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, or come along to the Parent Information Event.

Yours faithfully



Robin Newman
Principal



Haileybury Turnford, Mill Lane, Cheshunt, EN8 0JU 01992 308333 www.haileyburyturnford.com
Principal: Robin Newman MSc MBA

Haileybury Turnford is a trading name of Haileybury Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with registered number 09659808.

Registered office: Haileybury Academy Trust, London Road, Hertford Heath, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG13 7NU