

Dear Parent/Carer,

Now that the new academic year is underway, I wanted to write to you to give you a little information about how the curriculum in Y8 is organised.

All pupils Y8 will continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum.

There are several different ways in which we set the children in order to maximise the use of our facilities as well as to balance the groupings to ensure pupils make or exceed their expected progress.

English will determine the setting arrangements for many of the subjects within our 'Foundation' block: English, Humanities and Creative subjects.

There will be a top set (Group R) for and a lower set (Group B) then three mixed ability teaching groups. We would anticipate movement between groups during the year where it is deemed appropriate.

Further setting is arranged by Mathematics sets 1 – 5, with set1 for the most able mathematicians.

For Technology and PE, the children are divided into single sex teaching groups of equal numbers.

Our programme of study for Personal, Social, Health and Careers education (PSHCE) will continue as 'drop down' days, approx. one each half term where we cover a range of topics from Health & Well-being, Relationships, Living in the Wider World as well as Citizenship topics such as Enterprise, democracy and financial management.

PSHCE:

- equips pupils with knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and responsible lives.
- supports pupils to be positive in their learning, make effective career choices and smooth transition to the next stage of life and in managing finances effectively and employability skills.
- enables pupils to reflect on own values and attitudes, and explore how to deal with other people's values now and in the future, take responsibility and prepares them for adult life.

With so many changes nationally to GCSE courses, we may well be offering the opportunity to begin the Key stage 4 programme at the start of Y9 and Options for GCSE courses will be given to pupils in the Spring Term. There will be an opportunity to discuss the choices available in an Information Evening.

Thank you for your continued support in working together to help your children succeed.

Yours sincerely

Mrs P Hartley
Deputy Headteacher