



Mr G Panayiotou – Headteacher
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors

Castleford Academy
 Ferrybridge Road
 Castleford
 WF10 4JQ
 Tel: (01977) 605060

Our Ref: CL/SN

20th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 8 Options

In recent years, as part of our response to the new style GCSE's, we have created more curriculum time to allow pupils to study their option subjects in greater depth as well as increasing the time given to maths and English. In order to achieve this, pupils will be making their option choices in year 8 to start the courses in year 9. Given that pupils have spent a long period of time at home over the last 12 months we have considered, very carefully, our approach to the options process. We have, however, delayed the process as late as possible so that pupils can spend more time studying a broad curriculum before we ask them to make their choices.

This week pupils have been introduced to the options process through an assembly. This information giving, and support, will continue throughout this half term. The process will conclude on Friday 28th May (the last day of this half term) when the final option choices must be made. As part of the process, I wanted to write to you to let you know how we plan to support your son/daughter (and yourselves), with the decision-making process. The following is a list of these support measures, they have been explained during the assembly.

1. Introduction to Year 8 Options Assembly – Tuesday 20th April

The process and support are introduced to pupils.

2. Options Afternoon – Monday 10th May

At the end of the school day (from 2.50 - 4.00pm), pupils will have the opportunity to visit all of the different departments in school to look at what they offer in year 9,10 and 11. There will be examples of work and pupils who are currently studying these subjects will be on hand to share their experiences in the subject.

A copy of the options booklet and the options form will be handed to pupils prior to the event. Usually parents are invited to this event, unfortunately due to the current restrictions we are unable to accommodate this, this year.



Healthy Schools





Mr G Panayiotou – Headteacher
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors

Castleford Academy
Ferrybridge Road
Castleford
WF10 4JQ
Tel: (01977) 605060

3. Video Presentations for all subjects

Video presentations for all subjects will be available on the school website (from Monday 10th May). In these videos' teachers will describe/outline what pupils can expect to should they chose to study the subject to KS4.

4. Options Booklet

This booklet will be handed out to pupils at the options afternoon, it provides information on each subject area detailing the course requirements, what the course will cover and how it will be assessed. The booklet will also be available on the school website from Monday 10th May.

5. Informal conversations with subject teachers

Pupils are encouraged to ask questions/talk to their teachers about the subjects on offer.

6. Year 8 Parents' Evening

Due to current restrictions, parents' evenings are now conducted remotely via video calls (further information will be provided on this at a later date).

The parents evening will focus on discussing your son/daughters progress, as usual. In addition, parents will have the opportunity to discuss the requirements and content of GCSE/BTEC courses to be studied in subsequent years.

7. Careers Advice

One to one career's advice will be available to year 8 pupils (to book through the library) to discuss option choices. If you would like to speak to our career's advisor, Katie Oldroyd, please contact her by email koldroyd@castlefordacademy.com.

I hope that you have found the above information useful. A text message will be sent home when any further information is given out to pupils. All information will be available on the school website. I understand that the decision-making process can be very difficult for parents and pupils. Both myself and Mrs Holmes-Brown are available to offer further support as required. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school on the above number or by email claw@castlefordacademy.com.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Law
Associate to Senior Leadership Team

