



Mr G Panayiotou – CEO & Executive Headteacher  
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors  
Mr W Bush - Headteacher

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

Our Ref: CL/SN

18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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 two years we have considered our approach to the options process very carefully. We have decided to delay 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.

At the start of next half term pupils will be introduced to the options process through an assembly. This information giving, and support, will continue throughout this term. The process will conclude on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April (the end of the first week after the Easter holiday) 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 – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

The process and support are introduced to pupils.

**2. Year 8 Parents' Evening – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

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.

**3. Options Afternoon – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

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.

**The date of this event has been moved from the calendared date to delay the options process to provide pupils with more time to focus on their current broad range of subjects.**

#### 4. Video Presentations for all subjects

Video presentations for all subjects will be available on the school website (from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. In these videos teachers will describe/outline what pupils can expect should they choose to study the subject in KS4.

#### 5. 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 4<sup>th</sup> April.

#### 6. Informal conversations with subject teachers

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

#### 7. Careers Advice

Career's advice is available throughout the school year. If pupils wish they can book an appointment to discuss option choices.

#### 8. Options Form deadline date - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

This is the final date for completing and returning the form which details a pupil's choices.

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 Hawthorn 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](mailto:claw@castlefordacademy.com).

Yours faithfully



Mr C Law

Associate to Senior Leadership Team



Healthy Schools

