**Year 8 to 9 Curriculum**

Dear Parent/Carer,

In March we started the process to offer a more bespoke curriculum for Year 9 students on the basis they would study two subjects in further depth from the list below:

* Computer Science
* Food Technology
* Design Technology
* Drama
* Art
* Music

Our rationale for this model was that students would have a deeper understanding in the subject chosen and most students would continue to study one or both of these subjects into key stage 4.

However, the model does reduce the curriculum time across a broader range of subjects and could put some students at a disadvantage when starting Year 10 if they had not studied it in Year 9. Alongside this, we have also analysed the data of those who continue these courses into Key Stage 4 and had external consultations regarding the model.

We have therefore decided that moving forward for the academic year 2023-2024, Year 9 students will continue to study the broader range of subjects, as they have done in Year 7 and 8.

We will always use research and best practice to work towards ensuring the correct curriculum for every student, one which we are confident fully prepares them for not only their studies in Key Stage 4 and 5, but beyond into employment, training or further education. Therefore, in Year 9 all students will study English, mathematics, science, world views, physical education, history, geography, French, art, music, drama, food technology, design technology and computing.

We foresee that a small number of students will require a more personalised curriculum which allows for extra English and mathematics. This will be brokered on an individual basis. Where this is the case please be assured that we will work with you and your child to ensure any curriculum amendments are appropriate.

In January 2024 we will work with you and your child to ensure you are fully informed of the GCSE and Level 2 Options on offer and can make an informed choice. The Academy continues to invest in our Careers provision to support this process.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact myself, Mr Moss or your child’s form tutor.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hickin

Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum and Quality Assurance)