



January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As the content and challenge of GCSE examinations continues to get greater we have decided to make a significant change at Hanson. With the support of governors it has been decided that students will now make their GCSE choices in Year 8 and will begin to study them in Year 9. This allows students to study their chosen subjects in depth over a three year period. This is a year earlier than previous students but we are confident that our students will benefit from this change.

For many of our students this is the first time in their academic career they have made a choice about their education. It is important students alongside their parents make an informed choice. For that reason, the process is spread out over the spring term to allow a considered choice to be made.

To assist students in making their GCSE choices all Year 8 students will have Options Assemblies beginning on Monday 28th January where they will be informed of the choices available. Additionally we will hold a Year 8 Options Evening on Wednesday 13th March. There will be a talk in the Lecture Theatre regarding curriculum options and the opportunity for you and your child to discuss the best options for their future with subject specific staff.

The Year 8 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 28th February where it will be possible to speak to teachers regarding your son/daughter's progress in their current subjects in advance of the Options Evening.

Advice will be available from the careers team and all students will receive an options booklet at the Options Evening. Before options are finalised there will also be an opportunity for parents and their child to meet with a senior member of staff if they still have queries or concerns.

This change has been made to give your child the best chance of success and I look forward to working with you as we support them through this exciting time.

Yours faithfully



Mr Richard Woods
Headteacher