

## Year 8 Progress Evening: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to invite you to attend the annual Progress Evening to discuss your son/daughter's academic progress with their subject teachers.

Your child will be expected to make appointments directly with their subject teachers during lessons, and appointment times should be written in the relevant section of their student planners. Subject teachers will also keep a record of the appointments. Appointments can be made between 3.00 - 7.00 pm. We suggest that you discuss your preferred times with your child, so they are aware. This is a key time for Year 8 and your support in helping us secure the best outcomes for your child is invaluable.

Last summer the school proposed moving to a two-year Key Stage 3 and a three-year Key Stage 4 with students potentially dropping key subjects at the end of Year 8. Subsequently concerns have been raised by the DfE and Ofsted about schools using this approach to 'hot house' children and disregard the benefits of a broad and balanced curriculum. Additionally, the Government have set a target for 90% of students to be studying the EBacc suite of subjects by 2025. We have therefore decided as a school that our students would benefit more by continuing to have a three-year Key Stage 3. We are however, committed to giving our students some element of choice as they move into Year 9 are introducing a limited options process over the coming term. Students will have the opportunity to choose three subjects from the creative and technology subjects to concentrate on in year 9. These are **not GCSE** courses but continuations of their current courses. The increase in curriculum time gained by choosing three will enable students to have a deeper experience in these fewer subjects and therefore make a more informed choice next year when they pick their GCSE courses.

As part of Progress Evening you are invited to attend a presentation outlining these changes and how it will affect your child. The presentation will last about 20 minutes and take place in Barrow Hall Theatre. There will be three opportunities for you to attend; 4.00, 5.00 or 6.30 pm. Should you be unable to attend, the information will be available on the school website following Progress Evening.

The vast majority of parents attend Progress Evening, however, in the unlikely event that you are unable to attend please indicate below in order that we may follow this up.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Goodwin

Deputy Headteacher

✂.....

Reply Slip: ***GSHS Year 8 Progress Evening – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020***

Please tear off and return to your Form Tutor.

Student Name.....Form.....

☐ I am able to attend the Progress Evening on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

☐ I am unable to attend.

Parent signature.....Date.....