

Dear Parent/Carer

This year, in addition to studying the core academic subjects, we are giving Year 8 students the chance to specialise in three out of the six creative subjects that currently have limited curriculum time. This will give them a deeper experience in the areas that they enjoy by doubling the number of lessons each subject has from one to two hours per week. To ensure that students still have a broad and balanced curriculum we have organised the subjects into the two groups as shown below:

Visual and Performing Arts	Hours per week in Year 9	Technology	Hours per week in Year 9
Visual Arts	2	Design Technology	2
Music	2	Food Technology	2
Drama	2	ICT and Computing	2

Students will make **three** choices. **One** subject from the Visual and Performance Arts subjects, **one** from the Technology subjects and a **third** choice from any of the remaining four subjects. For example, a student may choose Visual Arts, Design Technology and Music. We would also like each student to indicate a reserve choice which would be used in the highly unlikely event that their combination of three subjects wouldn't fit into the timetable. It is important to note that the subjects chosen are **not** GCSE courses. Students will make their GCSE choices for Key Stage 4 during Year 9 where there will be a much more extensive list of subjects available.

On Monday Year 8 had an assembly to explain the process and give an overview of what each subject intended to cover in Year 9. The presentation from that assembly will be uploaded to the school website for your information. The attached option form will need to be completed over half term and returned to their Form Tutor by Monday 24th February.



Paul Goodwin  
Deputy Headteacher



## **A brief overview of each subject is given below:**

### **Visual Arts:**

Explore the visual arts through drawing, painting, sculptures, printing, textiles, critical analysis and photography. The year will culminate with your work being exhibited at school, showcasing your creativity, new found skills and confidence.

### **Music:**

Students will build on the work covered in Year 8. They will study popular songs and complete a solo performance. They will also complete a Music technology unit in which they will learn about how to sequence and add effects to a song culminating in them producing their own version of a modern song.

### **Drama:**

In Year 9 we will be focusing more on performance work – the aim will be to explore work from the point of view of a performer and director whilst learning about a range of theatre practitioners. We would like to work towards regular performance evenings for parents and peers which will hopefully engage, create a buzz for and love of the theatre.

### **Design Technology:**

Students will continue to build their experience within each of the Design Technology disciplines including Product Design, Electronics and Manufacturing. Using these techniques students will complete a range of projects using a wide range of materials.

### **Food Technology:**

Students will learn new skills and cook a range of dishes from around the world. They will be given 'Technical' challenges in groups, to test their skills and accuracy and get creative with a selection of mystery ingredients. There will also be time to improve their understanding of nutrition and learn about the science surrounding food.

### **ICT and Computing:**

During Year 9 you will explore modules in areas such as

- Networking – Protocol, layers, components;
- Programming - Python;
- Cyber Security – Threats, hackers, preventions, encryption;
- Marketing and Technology – Social media, etc.

# Year 8 Options Form

Name:..... Form: .....

Visual and Performance Arts (Tick one)	
Visual Arts	
Music	
Drama	

Technology(Tick one)	
Design Technology	
Food Technology	
ICT/Computing	

	Free Choice (Tick one)	Reserve Choice (Tick one)
Visual Arts		
Music		
Drama		
Design Technology		
Food Technology		
ICT/Computing		

Student Signature: .....

Parent/Carer Signature: .....

**Please return to your form tutor by Monday 24th February.**