Preparing Pupils for Success

The Current Situation

- 3 Year Key Stage 3
  - Broad and balanced curriculum
  - Some choice in Year 9 in the Arts and DT
- 2 Year Key Stage 4
  - Core GCSEs- English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science
  - Other compulsory subjects- PE, RE, PSHE (Healthy Living)
  - 4 Options with compulsory E Bacc Basket choice for most with each subject having five one hour lessons per fortnight
  - A significant number of pupils encouraged to take a language

Why we feel change is important

Changes to GCSE

- Reformed GCSEs are harder in terms of skills and knowledge required
- Increased content for pupils to learn placing demands on curriculum time
- A greater emphasis on knowledge retention making revision time essential

We want to maintain the breadth of choice for pupils

What does the Government say about what pupils should study?

English Basket	Qualification 1	English (Must study both Language and Literature)	Compulsory-Double weighting Best of Language or Literature
Maths Basket	Qualification 2	Maths	Compulsory- Double weighting
E Bacc Basket	Qualification 3	E Bacc 1	Can be chosen from all the remaining E Bacc subjects: Combined Science (counts as two), Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, History, Geography, Languages
	Qualification 4	E Bacc 2	
	Qualification 5	E Bacc 3	
Open Basket	Qualification 6	Other GCSEs and High Value Qualifications	Can be chosen from the full DfE list of high quality qualifications including listed Vocational qualifications, further EBacc subjects such as English Lit and other GCSE subjects including Arts and Creative subjects.
	Qualification 7		
	Qualification 8		

The government is also increasingly encouraging pupils to Languages which further limits choice for pupils.

Pupil factors we considered

1. What is in the best interests of the pupils- how do we ensure they have the best possible chance of success?
2. Are Year 8 pupils ready to make choices?
3. How do we ensure that we maintain a broad curriculum?
4. How do we manage the transition to GCSE courses?

Solutions we considered

1. Begin GCSE in Year 9 with no change to curriculum structure
2. Retain 2 Year Key Stage 4 and reduce number of options to 3
   i. Each option subject increases to 6 hours a fortnight
   ii. Other gained time to support English, Maths& Science
3. 3 Year Key Stage 4 and keep number of options at 4
   i. Each option subject stays ay 5 hours a fortnight

New curriculum structure

- 2 Year Key Stage 3
  - A broad and balanced curriculum which develops skills and knowledge needed to start GCSE
- 3 Year Key Stage 4
  - Core GCSEs- English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science
  - Other compulsory subjects- PE, RE, PSHE (Healthy Living)
  - 4 Options for most with compulsory Ebacc Basket choice

Support and Guidance

- Careers guidance is an ongoing part of the tutor and PSHE programme
- Further careers advice from My Future Starts Here
- Careers Investigator software for Year 8
- Subject areas are adapting their schemes of work to ensure that pupils are ready for step up to GCSE
- Teachers will be teaching sample lessons to help pupils understand what GCSE is like
- Teachers will come into assemblies to tell pupils about subjects you may not have studied before

Supporting your child to make the right choices

- What do they want to be doing in 10 years time not necessary a career but what they think they will enjoy doing.
- Do they need to go to University or complete and apprenticeship?
- What college courses will get them to the next level?
- What GCSE's are needed to move on to level 3 qualifications (College).
- ***Is it what they really want or what others think would be best for them?***

Time line for Year 8

- This week- Mock options
  - Pupils will surveyed to gain an indication of which subjects they would prefer to take
- 11th January- Subject evening
  - Your opportunity to talk to teachers about your child's progress and their interest in the subject at GCSE
- 16th January- Options evening
  - Information evening for parents and pupils about how the options process works
- 2nd March- Deadline for completed preference forms