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CKE/SPO
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Dear Parents and Carers

Change to GCSE options timelines for current Year 8 students

I write to inform you of the changes we are making regarding the way in which our current Year 8 students will be selecting their GCSE options at The Hart School.

Over recent times, Year 8 students have been able to select their GCSE/BTEC option choices mid-way through the year, enabling them to begin these courses at the beginning of Year 9.

This has meant that our students have experienced a two year Key Stage 3 and a three year Key Stage 4.

This year, we have had to review this process in light of the Covid-19 virus and its impact on learning, especially for those students in Year 8 who would have normally chosen their options.

Like you, we remain concerned about the potential loss of learning for all students, not only those at The Hart School, but students nationally. As of yet, there is no timescale for the return of students to our school.

We have, therefore, made a decision to reinstate a three year Key Stage 3 and a two year Key Stage 4, to allow more time for students to gain the skills, knowledge and experience they require to consider their choices.

We believe that this will allow Year 8 students the best chance of success moving forward. It will also, as importantly, alleviate some of the additional pressure our students might face when fully returning to school, allowing them to focus on consolidating on their lost learning time whilst increasing their knowledge of all subjects across the curriculum. With greater certainty and confidence, option choices will be made at the end of Year 9.

Please be assured that our staff are currently planning for this in their teaching, so that all students are challenged appropriately in their learning upon their return to The Hart School. The number of hours required to study a formal GCSE/BTEC qualification are being complied with, so students have no need to worry about this.



For the time being, we will continue to set work in line with the curriculum for students during this period, whilst the weekly contact with their form tutor remains critical in ensuring regular communication.

Thank you, as ever, for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Keen
Principal