



Pittville School
Cheltenham

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Headteacher Richard Gilpin

1st April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well as we continue to navigate this latest stage of Covid19 related restrictions. It has been fantastic to welcome Year 8 students back to site and see them participate in face-to-face lessons after the prolonged period of remote learning.

Whilst students remain in their base room for most of their lessons, subject teams have worked to carefully adapt their curriculum to address the need to catch up on any lost learning. We are confident that these curriculum changes, alongside students being able to access to specialist learning resources and importantly the ability to work alongside their peers will result in students making sustained progress in the weeks and months ahead. I am writing to inform you about the introduction of a 'Year 8 into 9 Curriculum Decision' process that will allow students the opportunity to select options for some subjects ahead of Year 9.

In Year 9, all students will continue to follow a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, RE, Art, Drama and PE. Students will be required to study either French or Spanish (students will have the option to attend after school lessons in the alternate language should they wish to pursue both). In addition, students will be asked to select two subjects from Music, Product Design, Food + Nutrition, Textiles and Graphics / ICT.

Core Curriculum	Modern Foreign Languages - Select one from:
English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, RE, Art, Drama and PE.	French or Spanish
	Music / Design Technologies – Select two from: Music, Product Design, Food + Nutrition, Textiles and Graphics / ICT

We believe this approach gives students a deeper understanding of their chosen subjects and enable them to adapt more easily to the demands of higher-level study as they progress into Key Stage 4. We also believe it will reduce the disengagement of students who feel as though they are forced to do a subject that they do not demonstrate an aptitude or interest in pursuing further. We hope that students pick subjects they enjoy and have ability in and,



in turn, that they will develop a good foundation in those subjects ahead of studying them in Year 10 and 11.

These choices are designed to allow students to focus on the subjects they are looking to study at KS4. However, it is important to note that the formal process for selecting Key Stage 4 options will take place during the Spring term of Year 9. As such, as an example, if a student wants to pick Product Design for GCSE but did not choose it for their mini options in Year 9, they will be able to do so. Similarly, if they choose Food + Nutrition for their mini options in Year 9, they do not have to keep studying it at GCSE in Years 10 and 11.

Upon their return to school on Monday 19th April – students will be able to meet with their relevant teachers to discuss their intended options before making their final decision on Friday 30th April. During this two-week period, we will make sure you have access to all the Curriculum Area Information for each of the subjects that comprise the options that your child is able to choose from. In addition to outlining the intended KS4 curriculum coverage - this also provide you with an overview of the type of content and skills needed to be successful in them. As part of this process - we are exploring ways in which parents will be able to meet virtually with curriculum leaders to discuss and questions they may have.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email address if you would like to discuss this process further or to resolve any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely

Mr Eagleton
Deputy Headteacher

