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TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS OF YEAR 8 STUDENTS

March 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian

As we end the Spring Term we approach the time for you and your child to consider the subjects that they would like to study at Key Stage 4, assisted by the Guided Choices process at Brighton Hill Community School. In order to provide you with as much guidance and support as possible in the process, we are offering three distinct pathways for students to follow. These are recommended, but not compulsory, pathways and provide the flexibility to design a curriculum package for each student which is tailored to their needs, strengths, interests and potential. We have made this recommendation using our knowledge of your child combined with current progress and attitude to learning grades, in addition to prior attainment data from primary school.

The *EBacc* pathway meets the criteria of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) which is a government measure of success for student learning. It is the title given to the group of subjects (English, Maths, Science, French, Spanish or Latin and History or Geography) that support a traditionally academic educational pathway. To follow this pathway, students must study at least one Foreign Language and History and/or Geography alongside the existing core subjects of English, Maths and Science to GCSE level.

We recognise that the academic demands of the *EBacc* pathway may not be suitable for all. The *Open Options* pathway removes the requirement for students who follow it to study both a Foreign Language and History or Geography; instead, only one option from French, Spanish, Latin, History or Geography needs to be selected. This provides further flexibility in the range of additional specialism subjects that students may choose.

Some students will be invited to follow the *Access* pathway. This pathway has been designed to support students' learning needs. In addition to English, Maths, Science and one option from French, Spanish, Latin, History or Geography, students will make two further specialism subject choices. The remaining option block will be 'Curriculum Access' time, supporting students in developing their literacy and numeracy skills and providing them with an opportunity to gain important life and work-related skills.

For all of these pathways, students may additionally be recommended to study Triple Science which would take up one of their specialism options. Students will only be recommended to follow the Triple Science pathway if the school is confident that they can access the course and if they are likely to consider continuing to study a Science at Level 3 (A Level).

All pathways offer students an element of choice when selecting specialism subjects. It is important that students consider these specialism subjects carefully with a view to future educational and career aspirations, as well as their own individual strengths. Parental and school guidance in this process is invaluable in supporting them to make choices which will allow them to thrive and develop their passion for learning. You will find the recommended pathway for your child at the top of the form on the next page. It is important that students, parents and carers are aware of the recommended pathway at the start of the Guided Choices process as this advice and guidance is given to ensure the greatest success for your child when choosing their Key Stage 4 qualifications.

We hope that this letter and the Guided Choices booklet provide you with the information that you require in order to help your child start to make well-informed choices about their GCSE courses. The next stage of the process will be for you and your child to attend the Guided Choices Information evening on Wednesday 2nd April, followed by the virtual parents' evenings for A and B side (booking information to follow). Additionally, you have been offered, via email, the opportunity to request an appointment with your child's tutor to help you finalise the choices for your child (booking information to follow).

The final part of the process is for you and your child to complete the electronic Guided Choices form at this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/75tB8KPkZT>

A separate email will be sent to you with a hyperlink to the form for ease of access. The deadline for this is Wednesday 14th May.

If you have any queries regarding the Guided Choices process, please contact Mr Onions or Mrs Humphreys.

Yours faithfully



Chris Edwards
Headteacher



Mr R Onions
Head of Year 8



Mrs H Humphreys
Assistant Headteacher