

2nd May 2017

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Year 8 is a very important year for our pupils. They are working hard to complete their studies for Key Stage 3. At the same time, they are looking to the future and beginning to make plans for a new stage in their learning career; Key Stage 4.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to the Year 8 Curriculum Information Evening on Tuesday 9th May 2017. The evening is designed to give you and your child an overview of the KS4 curriculum and to prepare them to start to make decisions about which optional subjects they would like to study in years 9, 10 and 11.

During the evening there will be a short presentation which will start at 6.30pm in the main Hall lasting about 20 minutes. This will give an overview of the subjects that all pupils take and an idea about the range of subjects that will be available to choose from.

There is a variety of subjects although it is worth noting that a small number are aimed at specific groups of children:

Triple Science (is directed at only those who have already achieved highly in Science and likely to continue pure sciences beyond GCSE); all other children will complete two GCSEs in Science.

"Green pathway" is for pupils who have been pre-selected for an adapted curriculum programme. Mrs Palin or Mrs Hartley have informed you if this applies to you.

The recent changes in education mean there are new measures you will want to be aware of which may influence the choices your child takes.

Throughout the evening there will be an opportunity to speak to representatives of all subjects. You will be able to see examples of class work, exams and coursework. Teachers will be able to answer any questions about subject areas and offer some initial guidance on the suitability of a course.

The deadline for the return of the options forms to Mrs Hartley is **Wednesday 24th May**

I very much look forward to seeing you on the evening and hope you find it both informative and useful.

Yours sincerely

Sue Bond

The English Baccalaureate

In the White Paper, *The Importance of Teaching*, published in November 2010, the Secretary of State announced the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. The Government believes that schools should offer pupils a broad range of academic subjects to the age of 16, and the English Baccalaureate promotes this aspiration.

“The English Baccalaureate is not a new qualification in itself. It will recognise students’ achievements across a core of selected academic subjects in getting good passes in rigorous GCSEs. The English Baccalaureate will cover achievements in English, mathematics, sciences, a language and a humanities subject. We intend to mark individual students’ future achievements through certificate.”

At Huntcliff School it is our intention that most pupils would benefit from studying the English Baccalaureate. They will do the following academic subjects:

- GCSE in English and GCSE English Literature
- GCSE in Mathematics
- GCSE in Science with the option to study triple science
- GCSE in a Language (French)
- GCSE in a Humanities (History or Geography)

They will also study, GCSE Religious Education, PSCHE and PE and have a couple of other selections to make.

If you do have any questions regarding the English Baccalaureate then please contact Mrs Hartley.