

25 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Year 8 Mini-Options - Information and Next Steps**

We continue with our drive of maximising attainment for every student across the curriculum. Up to now, your son/ward has been studying a wide range of subjects in Years 7 and 8.

There are increased demands with GCSEs, and an even sharper focus on core subjects. Therefore, we are going to provide further time in Year 9 for some chosen subjects, to improve knowledge, understanding and develop application so higher levels of progress can still be made.

To find this time for more in-depth study of subjects, your son/ward needs to make some choices of study in Year 9. The choices are:

Two subjects from: **computing, geography and history**  
and

Two subjects from: **art, design & technology, drama and music**

In Year 9, the four chosen subjects will then have increased lesson time, while the other three subjects will not appear on your son/ward's timetable. The focus on the selected subjects will be to develop the knowledge, application, and skills to be highly successful at GCSE and then at post-16 level, if appropriate. Creative subjects in particular form a vital part of a broad and balanced curriculum and our intention is that all students develop an appreciation for life-long learning in many areas. We still encourage students to make time for personal interests and hobbies at home and through the range of extra-curricular opportunities at school.

Find out more information below about what comes next.

#### **Next Steps**

<b>THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024</b>	Year 8 Parents/Carers Evening with academic data.
<b>THURSDAY 2 MAY 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 8 information assembly about Mini-Options process.</li> <li>Electronic booklet emailed to students and parents/carers.</li> </ul>
<b>FRIDAY 10 MAY 2024</b>	Response form emailed to students.
<b>FRIDAY 17 MAY 2024</b>	Deadline for completing online form.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT ARE THE BEST REASONS FOR CHOOSING MY SUBJECTS?

- You enjoy these subjects.
- You are good at these subjects.
- They may link to future career aspirations.

### IF I DROP A SUBJECT NOW, CAN I STILL TAKE IT AS A GCSE OPTION?

It will be possible to study a subject in Year 10 if you have not studied it in Year 9. However, you will need to show that you have continued to develop your skills in this area, through other activities inside and/or outside of school.

### I AM HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING - WHAT CAN I DO?

- Speak to your subject teachers, your form tutor, and/or Mr McAlinden.
- Research careers, apprenticeships and degrees linked to the subjects that you are interested in.


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If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me via email:

[smcalinden@isleworthsyon.org](mailto:smcalinden@isleworthsyon.org).

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr S McAlinden**

Assistant Headteacher - Years 8 & 9

