



February 2021

Dear Year 9 Bennett Parents,

RE: GCSE Curriculum Decisions

You may already have begun thinking about your child's curriculum for the next two years. Certainly, this is an important time to take stock of all that has been achieved so far and to prepare for what the curriculum will look like for Key Stage 4. With the recent uncertainties and disruptions, it is more important than ever to look at the information on the curriculum and be guided through this process.

In year 8, students have already made some changes to their curriculum and whilst the doors that might be closed are limited, in some cases these choices will have established one pathway over another. For example, a student may have decided to continue product design and discontinue art. In doing so, they have already laid the foundations for choices that are made this year about GCSEs. However, there are still some decisions to be made to personalise the curriculum in one or two significant areas and plenty to think about in terms of how to make the most of this important transition.

The process that we use here at Bennett Memorial School aims to encourage students to make positive decisions, whilst giving them strong guidance about the relevance and appropriateness of the courses that we offer for Key Stage 4. This year the process is taking place during national lockdown, so we are providing an opportunity to join us for a virtual briefing which will set out the factors involved. The process will work as follows:

- **Thursday 25th February – 5pm. Information briefing.**
- **Thursday 25th March – deadline for return of the curriculum decision form to the school office.**

Fuller explanation of all of this will occur on the evening and a follow up letter will set out the core curriculum and the choices available together with subject details. An electronic form will be made available to register those decisions. Clearly your participation in these guidance events will play a very important role in supporting your child through this decision-making process. If you need further assistance please email bowring@bennett.kent.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Chris Woollett
Assistant Head
Curriculum and Communication.
woollett@bennett.kent.sch.uk