



10th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 in to 9 Updated Curriculum Information

Creative Subjects

We, at QEGS, are very proud of the curriculum on offer to all of our students. We believe that we have a responsibility to provide our students with a broad and balanced curriculum with value and relevance both in and out of the classroom. As a result, we are always reviewing our curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of all of our students.

Currently Year 8 students have a couple of 1 hour lessons per fortnight to study each Creative Subject (Art & Design, Art Textiles, Computer Science, Music, Food & Nutrition, Design and Technology, Dance, Drama and Engineering). To allow them to be immersed in their subject and begin to develop a mastery of it, they will have the option to choose two of the Creative Subjects to study for 5 hours per fortnight in year 9. Having a deeper knowledge of these subjects in Year 9 will also support them in making options decisions in preparation for Year 10.

Please note that the subject content will not be GCSE content. Students do not have to have studied a subject in Year 9 to choose it at GCSE.

The options process will commence later in the academic year but it is worth students starting to think about which subjects they would like to choose. Talking to subject staff and current Year 9 students would be helpful. There will be a series of assemblies later this year and support from staff to help make these choices.

Maths Streaming

Currently Year 8 students are grouped in mixed prior attainment classes in Maths. In Maths we currently follow the Maths Mastery programme of learning based on international evidence and practice.

Mixed prior attainment groups is preferential for this, where students can develop their problem solving skills and resilience, necessary for the new GCSEs. A continual review of this has taken place and data shows that students are making good progress and improved progress compared to recent years.

As beneficial as we have found the mixed prior attainment groups to be, it is more beneficial for the students to be placed in streamed groups based on prior attainment in Year 9. This is due to the fact that, in preparation for the GCSE material, students studying for the higher and foundation tiers will be studying different content at different times. There is, however, a good deal of cross-over of content between higher and foundation, and some students do move between the tiers between the start of Year 9 and their GCSE exams.

If you require further support, please do not hesitate to contact me or the line manager of Maths, Miss Ward or the Year 8 Progress Leader, Mr Flynn.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Betty

Deputy Headteacher