

REF: ANS/KL

2 December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: Year 8 Pathway Choices

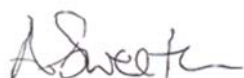
In previous years we have provided Year 8 children with the opportunity to start GCSE subjects in Year 9. Our curriculum is planned to ensure continuity of learning and knowledge is built upon over years 7 and 8. The long-term plans, for all subject areas, take into consideration a graduated approach to developing an expertise and understanding that provides the building blocks for GCSE expectations.

Three months of inconsistent or missed learning in Year 7 and the unpredictable nature of absence over the course of Year 8, has placed the continuity of learning in a precarious position for all our students. Our children have not met the requirements of the national curriculum, have a limited understanding of every subject area and will, therefore, struggle to apply an informed choice to the subjects they wish to pursue at GCSE level.

We have, therefore, made the decision to complete the pathway processes at the end of Year 9. Your child will continue to study the whole curriculum throughout Year 9 and will choose a GCSE or Btec pathway in the February of 2022. Information regarding subject choices will be provided at that time. We intend to utilise the summer term in Year 9 to begin preparing students for GCSE requirements.

I hope this explains our rationale to enable you to support this decision. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Dawson at g.dawson@ncdat.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



A Sweeten
Principal