



## Important changes to curriculum structure and GCSE options

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Wade Deacon High School we are committed to providing a high quality, ambitious and inclusive curriculum that provides every student with the opportunity of a rich, well-rounded education and prepares them for their next steps at the end of Year 11.

In line with our commitment to excellence, we take a proactive approach to evaluating provision within the school. Following a thorough review this year, we have reached the conclusion that we are well placed to further improve our curriculum, without losing the strengths of our current provision.

Over recent years we have improved the curriculum in the Foundation Stage (Years 7 and 8). We would now like students to benefit from this broad and balanced curriculum for an additional year by extending it into Year 9, before personalising their studies at GCSE.

We believe that this will allow us to:

- build upon the strong foundation of core knowledge and skills and create opportunities for students to study topics in greater depth before starting GCSE courses
- place greater emphasis on opportunities for personal development through wider curriculum learning and enrichment activities, such as those already recognised through our Gold SMSC Award and Arts Mark Platinum accreditation
- strengthen the options process to further support to students in making well-informed and appropriate choices about the GCSE options they study

Moving forward, pupils will experience a 3-year KS3 from Year 7 to Year 9, with a 2-year GCSE programme starting in Year 10. As a result of this change, students currently in Year 8 will continue with the same subjects they currently study when they move into Year 9 in September 2020.

Throughout this academic year, we will adapt and improve our current KS3 curriculum to ensure that students have the best possible experience and preparation for their future studies. We will also be considering ways in which we can develop the range of options available so that students can personalise their curriculum to suit their needs and post-16 choices. There will be an opportunity throughout this year for parents and carers to work with us in this process.

Further information will be made available to students, parents and carers regarding the GCSE Options process mid-way through Year 9. This will include information packs and meetings for parents, and assemblies, subject presentations and 'taster' activities for students.

Should you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Wood  
Vice Principal

A Commitment to Excellence

