



January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 into 9 Curriculum Pathways

As a result of the rigour of GCSE courses, students are given the opportunity to be more selective with their curriculum choices in Year 9. This is necessary to adequately prepare them for the linear GCSE curriculum and, ultimately, to ensure that they achieve the highest possible grades by the end of Year 11.

The Year 9 curriculum will include KS3 Maths, English, core PE, Computing, Citizenship, DTVA and the Modern Foreign Language they are currently studying. Students will also begin to study GCSE content in Science and Humanities. As part of this there will be some flexibility in the following subject areas:

- **Humanities:** students can choose from either Geography **or** History;
- **PE and Performing Arts:** students can choose **one option** of either extra PE **or** music **or** drama;
- **Design & Technology and Visual Arts:** students can choose **two options and a reserve** (option 1 will be guaranteed) of either Hospitality & Catering **or** Product Design **or** Art **or** Photography

During assembly today we discussed these options with the students and provided information about each possible choice. Students will also receive further information during "taster" lessons in some subjects and have opportunities to discuss their choices with their teachers at Parents' Evening on Thursday 6 February.

Following a discussion with their teacher, students must select their preferred options via the following link:
<https://forms.gle/74qoJi8DMQApkzKA>

A summary of the timeline can also be found below:-

Thursday 6 February: Year 8 Parents' Evening - an opportunity to discuss with subject teachers

Friday 14 February: Deadline for responses

Please contact the Curriculum Team Leaders listed below if you have any specific questions about a particular subject:-

Humanities: Charlotte Harris - Charris@heanorgatespencer.org.uk

PE and Performing Arts: Robert Fretwell - Rfretwell@heanorgatespencer.org.uk

Design & Technology and Visual Arts: - Gemma Kidd - Gkidd@heanorgatespencer.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr S Shaw

Achievement Leader - Year 8