



30 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 into 9 Curriculum Pathways

As you are aware from previous correspondence, last week we launched the options process. As a reminder, 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**

Since our assembly last week your child has had "taster" lessons in some subjects, including in class discussions around option choices where applicable, with further opportunity to discuss Y8 into Y9 option choices with their teachers at Parents' Evening on Thursday 5 February 2026.

The following form is to be used for students, with their parent/carers, to select their preferred options - <https://forms.gle/1k97xBggFk37XKRF7>

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

Thursday 5 February: Year 8 Parents' Evening - an opportunity to discuss subject choices with current staff

Thursday 12 February: Deadline for responses to above form

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

Humanities: Lauren Shaw-Mellors - lshaw-mellors@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

Mrs K Barlow

Achievement Leader - Year 8