



21 October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 – Key Information and Important Dates

First I would like to say, how nice it has been to have Year 8 students back in school. The majority of them have been keen to engage in their studies again and be back in the school environment with their friends, especially after the lengthy period of lockdown last academic year. We have spent the first half term settling them back into school and ensuring they are safe. Mr Bishop and I are acutely aware that they also need opportunities outside of the curriculum and we will be exploring safe ways to do this next half term.

The annual timetable of key dates still continues, although these will be delivered online in some cases, and I am writing to advise you of some key information and dates for this academic year.

The dates for your receipt of the tracking report will be:

Autumn - Monday 16 November 2020

Spring - Monday 8 February 2021

Summer - Monday 28 June 2021

As part of this process, your child's tutor will review their progress with them in a dedicated Friday tutor session shortly after the report becomes available and you have had an opportunity to see the grades and discuss them with your child.

Some guidance about the system and how it works can be found [here](#).

You will also be invited to attend parents evening to discuss progress with your child's teachers. For all students in tutor groups in 8M grouping, these will be held on Tuesday 23 February 2021. For all students in tutor groups in 8E grouping, these will be held on Thursday 25 February 2021. If we cannot carry this out in our usual method, and hold face to face meetings, we are able to use a virtual online system. More details will be provided closer to time.

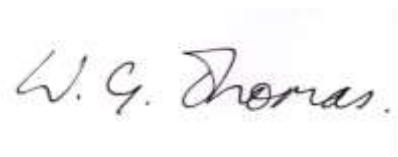
In the spring term we will start the GCSE options process for Key Stage 4, which they will then start in September 2021, when they start Year 9.

The Options Evening will take place on Tuesday 9 February 2021 and if this cannot be a physical event, it will be conducted virtually. Please be assured that it is our intention that you will still have access to the same level of advice and guidance as in previous years and that you and your child will have the opportunity to find out about the subjects available to study at Key Stage 4 from subject staff.

I think it fair to inform you that two subjects in the Key Stage 4 options have entry criteria. If a student wishes to take Computer Science they will be able to opt for this subject should they achieve a level of at least 3M in Maths by the time of their spring tracking report. If a student wishes to take Economics they will need to have achieved a 3M in both Maths and English by the time of their spring tracking report. The reason for this is that these two GCSEs are now amongst the most academically challenging and so in order to thrive and succeed, these may only be suitable for more able students. For those students who do not achieve the required entry criteria they will be able to choose Business Studies or iMedia as possible alternatives.

I look forward to continuing to work with you this year and my thanks for all of your support since you and your child became part of #TeamMaidenErlegh and, in particular, over the last 6 months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. G. Thomas." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Mr G Thomas
Assistant Head