

1 February 2021

Year 8 Options

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to explain a change in our options process.

Historically students at the academy have followed a three year Key Stage 4 curriculum model resulting in students spending three years studying their GCSE qualifications. From September 2021 this process will change with all students studying a traditional three year Key Stage 3 curriculum and in Years 10 & 11 they will study their GCSE subjects.

The academy has made this decision to ensure that our students receive their entitlement to a curriculum that is ambitious, broad and balanced. Research shows that students following a three year model acquire a wealth of prior knowledge and skills, which provides them with the strong foundation needed for success in Key Stage 4 and beyond.

In order to make sure that students are covering a broad and balanced curriculum over the three years we are introducing 'Performing Arts' to all students. Music as its own subject, is a National Curriculum subject and it is compulsory that all students study this until the end of Year 9.

In order to fully prepare students who then may want to study Drama or Dance as a GCSE subject, students will now have the option to choose an additional subject to study alongside their compulsory Music lesson. Students are also able to continue with solely Music, if they would prefer not to pick Drama or Dance. This will enable us to nurture talents and fully prepare students for GCSE, should they wish to specialise in Performing Arts. An example of how the options process will look is detailed on the next page.



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

Student A

Music	Compulsory Subject
Drama	Optional Subject

Student B

Music	Compulsory Subject
Dance	Optional Subject

Student C

Music	Compulsory Subject
Music	Optional Subject

All Year 8 students will be expected to choose one of the combinations above to study throughout Year 9.

In order to share this information with students and explain how we are going to collate the options information, I am inviting all Year 8 students to **a live assembly on Zoom on Friday 5 February at 2.45pm**. Details of this, including a Zoom link, will be available on Satchel One.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the academy.

Yours faithfully

L Seddon

Miss L Seddon
Assistant Principal

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