



Woodkirk Academy

&

The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy

Principal: **Mr T Jones**

November 2021

Dear Parent

In previous years, students have started their option subjects in Year 9. This has meant that they stop studying some of the National Curriculum subjects at the end of Year 8. Moving forward, and starting with the current Year 8, students will continue to study the breadth of the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum throughout Year 9 also (academic year 2022/23). This means that your son/daughter will not select options in the coming months – this process will now take place during the next academic year.

This decision has been made to ensure that all students can benefit from the study of the National Curriculum for longer. This year, more than ever, with the disruption brought by the pandemic, students will benefit from continued exposure to the full suite of Key Stage 3 subjects. At Woodkirk Academy the aim of our curriculum is to support students to develop the necessary knowledge and character that enables them to be the best that they can be as 21st Century global citizens. The in-depth study of the National Curriculum supports this aim. By offering these subjects across three years rather than the current two years, it ensures that teachers are able to delve more deeply into the subject matter; inspiring the students to want to learn more and equipping them with the requisite knowledge for further study.

With two and a half years of study before options are taken, students will be well informed of their interests and preferences. When they then embark on their study towards qualifications at the start of Year 10, they will have a broad knowledge base and will be well prepared for Key Stage 4. Although students will no longer study towards these qualifications in Year 9, there will be ample lesson time throughout Years 10 and 11 to cover the specification content and prepare for the assessments.

It is appreciated that some students will have already been thinking about which subjects they might like to select for the years ahead. These considerations will not be wasted: the same suite of subjects will be available in a year's time. However, all students are encouraged to keep an open mind about what they might study in Years 10 and 11. Their curricular experience over the next 12 months will be broad, fulfilling and varied; students will benefit from embracing all of their curriculum subjects before making a final decision.

Yours sincerely

T Jones
Principal

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