



4 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re. Information Regarding Change of Options Process/KS3 Curriculum

Traditionally, the curriculum model at Haughton Academy has been split into Key Stage 3 (years 7 & 8) and Key Stage 4 (years 9, 10 & 11). Under this model, year 8 was the time when pupils became involved in choosing their KS4 option choices (i.e. ready for year 9). The academy has been reviewing this model for a period of time, and we have now decided that from September 2020, we will be operating a model that adopts a three-year Key Stage 3 (years 7, 8 & 9) and a two-year Key Stage 4 (years 10 & 11). This will therefore mean that **current year 8 pupils will not choose options in year 8**, but will instead choose them when they move into year 9 in September 2020, which will then be part of Key Stage 3. Pupils currently in year 9 and studying options, will move into year 10 as normal and continue to follow the timetables and courses that they currently have in place.

I would like to reassure you that we have taken into account a number of factors when deciding upon this change. Firstly, as you may be aware, all schools have been asked to review their curriculum offer and here at Haughton, we have been re-writing the individual subject curricula for some time. We feel this change is best made now, to coincide with this curriculum development work. We also strongly believe, that offering a broad and balanced curriculum for longer (i.e. 3 years at Key Stage 3 instead of 2 years), will allow our pupils to study a wider range of subjects in greater depth for longer and allow them to make better informed choices when choosing options in year 9.

Having also undertaken a review of the current offer at Key Stage 4 (i.e. 3 years), we would like to reassure parents/carers that allocated hours are more than sufficient to continue to meet the suggested guided learning hours for the proposed option courses.

I would also like to reassure you that the choices available at Key Stage 4 (i.e. years 10 and 11) under the new model, will continue to be as varied (including traditional GCSE's and vocational courses), in order to meet the differing needs of our pupils. It is also worth noting, that many of the new style KS4 courses being developed and approved by the Department for Education (DfE), are now specifically designed to be delivered over a two-year period.

The academy is planning to hold an information evening on **Wednesday 18 March 2020 6.00pm – 7.30pm**. This will give parents/carers the opportunity to gain further insight into the changes, and to ask any questions that they may have. I would encourage parents/carers to attend the information evening if possible.

In the meantime, if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on 01325 248143 or email to jbettney@educationvillage.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Bettney
Deputy Head Teacher (Curriculum)