

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



4 May 2020

Dear parents / carers,

YEAR 8 OPTION CHOICES 2020

At St Matthew Academy, we are constantly striving to ensure the education of our pupils is broad and balanced and provides an enriched secondary school experience. In previous years, pupils have selected the subjects they would like to study at GCSE in the summer of Year 8. It is fair to say that few 12/13 years old have a clear idea of the higher education course or career path they are going to follow. It is therefore more sensible to choose as broad a range of subjects as possible so that a range of options remains for A Level and other Post 16 courses and, later, university courses.

With this in mind, and following extensive consultation, we have improved our options offer for the current year 8 and divided this into two phases. This approach will ensure all pupils continue to have a broad, rich curriculum offer in year 9 along with an element of choice which enables them to study two subjects of interest in more depth. In year 10 pupils will then be in a strong position to start their GCSE studies with the majority of pupils following the English Baccalaureate (**EBacc**) curriculum. The EBacc; consisting of English, Maths, two Sciences, a Humanities subject and a Modern Foreign Language; is seen by employers and universities as a desirable academic mix of subjects.

Phase 1 – Year 8 into Year 9

- All pupils study English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, Geography, History and Spanish
- Pupils choose **two** option subjects as their *first choice subjects* to study in Year 9. These subjects will consist of creative arts, performing arts, physical education, enterprise and IT subjects.
- Pupils choose a reserve option subject as a backup option in the unlikely event that they do not get one of their first choice subjects

Phase 2 – Year 9 into Year 10

- All pupils study English, Maths, Science, Religious Education and Spanish
- Pupils choose between Geography and History
- Pupils decide on which **one** of their Phase 1 subjects they would like to continue studying at GCSE level

Phase 1 of this process will be completed online and the details of the process are below.

Date	Event	Details
Friday 30 th April	Subject survey	Pupils need to complete a one minute survey online via Google classroom
Monday 18 th May	Subject information	All parents and pupils will receive a video explaining the different subjects available along with the options booklet
Tuesday 19 th May	Choosing your options on SIMS	All pupils will receive a video explaining how to make their choices on the SIMs program
Friday 22 nd May	Consultation day	Parents and pupil can phone in or email with questions regarding the Options process
Monday 1 st June	Deadline	All pupils will have submitted their Phase 1 choices. Any entries submitted after this date cannot be guaranteed any of their choices
Friday 22 nd June	Confirmation of Phase 1 subjects	Parents will receive a letter confirming which subjects their child will study in Year 9

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Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all

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If you are having difficulty completing this process online and require paper copies of any the documents or require any further assistance during this process please do not hesitate to contact us – via email on swi@stmatthewacademy.co.uk or jec@stmatthewacademy.co.uk

Our best wishes to you and your family at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Wickliffe
Assistant Headteacher

Mr J Charlery
Director of Learning