



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Curriculum Developments

As a result of GCSE courses becoming much more rigorous - and in line with the recent GCSE changes - last year we took the decision for students to commence the learning of certain GCSE subjects at the start of Y9. This is necessary to adequately prepare them for the new linear curriculum and ultimately ensure that they achieve the highest possible grade by the end of Y11.

The Y9 curriculum will include KS3 maths, English, core PE, computing, citizenship, DVTA and the modern foreign language they are currently studying. With students studying GCSE content in science and humanities. As part of this there will be some flexibility in the following subject areas:

- **Humanities:** students can choose from either geography **or** history
- **PE and performing arts:** students can choose **one option** of either extra PE **or** music **or** drama

In this week's assembly I discussed these options with the students and provided information about each possible choice. Over the coming week, students will receive further information during lessons and have opportunities to discuss their choices with their teachers. There will also be an opportunity for each student to have a one to one discussion with their tutor about their potential choices and to look at which courses are most suitable to them. Following this, students will be asked to select the choices they wish to make. This will be done online through a link sent via email. A summary of the timeline can be found on the next page.

Further details about the school's curriculum offer can be found in our Curriculum Policy document which can be accessed through the link below:

http://heanorgate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Curriculum_Policy_2020-21_onwards.pdf

Please contact the curriculum team leaders if you have any specific questions about a particular subject.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Pearse

Achievement Leader Y8

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Curriculum Team Leaders

Humanities: Mrs C Harris

PE and performing arts: Mrs R Fretwell

The Timeline

Monday 22 February: Y8 Assembly on Y9 choices via Google Classroom.

Monday 22 February to Friday 5 March: all Y8s to have a geography and a history taster lesson in their normal live lesson time (in depth discussion on what the GCSE course covers).

Week Commencing Monday 8 March: all Y8 students to have a one to one discussion with their tutor to discuss option suitability.

Monday 15 March: Deadline for students to enter choices via the online link.