

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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J Lancaster BEd (Hons)
Headteacher

MO/AMP/18/09/2018

Dear Parent/ Carer,

During Year 8 your son/daughter will be making some important decisions about their Key Stage 4 option subjects. We have a very comprehensive options programme in place which gives your son/ daughter a wide range of information, advice and guidance about subject choices and different pathways. I have enclosed our options "Calendar of Events" which highlights the key events in place to allow your son/ daughter to make the right choices that are best suited to their needs.

Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum and Setting

All pupils study core examined subjects in English, Mathematics, Science, RE and Humanities (History or Geography) in Years 9, 10 and 11. Pupils are set specifically according to each individual subject identified above. Therefore assessments undertaken at the end of Year 8 are extremely important in dictating which set they will be allocated in Year 9.

In Key Stage 4, pupils will also study 3 option subjects, which can be selected from a wide range of GCSEs and vocational courses. Our courses at Key Stage 4 recognise that there are many different routes through the education system and we aim to provide as wide a variety as possible. These will be clearly explained at the Year 8 Options Evening on **Thursday 28th February 2019** and in the Year 8 options booklet which will be given out on **Monday 11th February 2019**.

In addition to these examined subjects, pupils will take part in Physical Education and Guidance which includes lessons in Careers, Citizenship, Preparation for Work, Financial Awareness and Enterprise.

Changes to GCSE and BTEC Qualifications

Since September 2015 the Government has introduced brand new GCSEs in most subjects with specific changes made to the content and structure, including a new grading scale that uses numbers 1-9 to identify levels of performance (with 9 being the top level). There is more information available about these new GCSEs in our options booklet and on our website. BTEC and vocational qualifications have also undergone more rigorous assessment procedures and will no longer be 100% coursework based. Approximately 25% of the courses will be externally assessed.

It is crucial that your son/daughter does not miss vital information about the options process and excellent attendance will ensure that they will be fully equipped to make the right choices.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

M Oliver

M Oliver (Mrs)
Assistant Headteacher



Calendar of Events 2018-19

Key Dates	Events	Information
Mon 28 th January	Year 8 Guidance lesson	"Making the right choices" Careers lesson
Mon 4 th February - Fri 8 th February	Options taster sessions in class	Pupils will be able to experience GCSE taster sessions in their Year 8 lessons
Wed 6 th February	Year 8 Options taster day Media Studies Film Studies Business Studies Travel and Tourism Child development Drama ICT/ Computer Science PE/ Sport	Opportunity for pupils to experience different GCSE and Level 2 Courses.
Mon 11 th February	Options booklet goes live on website	Options booklet given out during Guidance lesson and made available on school website.
Mon 11 th February	Year 8 Guidance lesson	Pupils discuss option choices with Careers advisor and specialist staff
Thur 28 th February	Options Evening 5.00pm - 6.30pm (PJD) 6.30pm - 8.00pm (TGE)	Opportunity for parents and pupils to talk to specialist staff about options and suitability of courses
Thurs 14 th March	Year 8 Parents Evening 3.30pm	Opportunity for parents and pupils to talk to specific class teachers
Fri 15 th March	Deadline for return of options forms	Completed options forms to be returned to the form tutor.

Nine things you should know about 9 to 1 GCSE grades

9 GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.

8 New GCSE content will be more challenging.

7 Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A*s.

6 English language, English literature and maths were the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017.

5 Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.

4 The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.

3 In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, broadly the same proportion of students will get grades 1, 4 and 7 and above as would have got grades G, C and A and above respectively in the old system.

2 Regulators in Wales and Northern Ireland are not introducing the new 9 to 1 grading scale as part of the changes to GCSEs in their jurisdictions.

1 You can see how the 9 to 1 grades compare with the A* to G scale in the infographic overleaf.



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public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)

5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING

4 and above = bottom of C and above