



27 February 2020

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Re: Year 8 Options Evening – Wednesday, 4 March 2020**

Your child is about to begin a new and very important phase in their education. Next academic year they will be embarking upon the courses that will lead to GCSE examinations and so it is now time to make very important choices about programmes of study for Years 9 to 11. Making well informed decisions on which subjects to take through to Year 11 is imperative to ensuring smooth and rapid progress towards gaining high quality and appropriate qualifications. These choices must be carefully thought out, taking on-board all advice and guidance given, as they will have a significant bearing on your child's future. Decisions made now will have an impact on the next stage of their educational journey and on the type of career your child may wish to follow.

Your child will shortly receive an Options Booklet with guidance on the selection process, which will contain a Subject Course Guide, further detailing course breakdowns and assessment requirements.

We have an established process at Ivybridge Community College to ensure your child makes the choices that best meet their capabilities, needs and aspirations. Therefore, in order to provide the fullest information to help students make the best choice for them, displays will be mounted in departmental areas, giving examples of students' work, required assessments and full details of the programme of study. Staff will be available from 5.00pm – 7.00pm on Wednesday, 4 March 2020 to talk over the requirements and workloads of each subject.

During the Options Evening, there will be an opportunity for you and your child to attend a presentation detailing the process of option selection as well as guidance on how to use the online system. Please see below for your scheduled presentation, which will be located in the Dining Hall.

<b>Session timings:</b>	<b>Tutor group:</b>
5.00 - 5.30pm	BLY, GEE, GUY, HWH, PYA
5.30 - 6.00pm	PPT, RLY, SSN, SDS, SND
6.00 - 6.30pm	TRS, WTL, WTE, WLW

## **The Year 8 Parents' Evening follows on Wednesday, 11 March 2020 from 3.30pm to 6.00pm.**

We hope that you will be able to attend to discuss your child's work and academic progress with their subject teachers. This will provide you with realistic feedback of your child's abilities and effort, and importantly, how you can best support them. The Pastoral Leader for Year 8, Mrs Brown, and Director of SEND, Mrs Banfield, will be available throughout the evening to talk about your child if you wish to do so. There will also be a Parents' Surgery available hosted by the Leadership Team, which is an opportunity to discuss any general matters regarding your child and the College.

Students will make appointments with their teachers on your behalf and these will be shown on an appointment form provided by your child's Tutor. Students will carry this appointment sheet with them to all of their lessons and they will ask their subject teachers to give them an appointment time, which will last for five minutes for each subject. We would be grateful if you could give your child a time band in which to work, particularly with reference to your time of arrival. Students should also keep a backup copy of the appointments in their Learning Journal using the appointment sheet provided for this purpose. It is always helpful if students leave five minutes between appointments to enable parents/carers to move from one subject teacher to another. We also encourage students to accompany you on this evening and they should attend wearing full College uniform.

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We should emphasise that both evenings are very important and stress the need for careful and detailed notes, so that when decisions are eventually reached they are made in full command of the facts.

Students cannot change courses after September so they need to be very clear about the course requirements for subjects they want to choose, especially including specific assessment criteria. It is important, therefore, to make informed choices based upon interest in the subject by following individual decisions and not to be influenced by choices made by friends.

Car parking will be available in the area opposite Millennium Reception, as well as the College Coach Park.

Finally, we very much look forward to seeing you at these two important evenings.

Yours faithfully

Gill Taylor  
**Deputy Principal**

Charlotte Hanton  
**Associate Leader**