



12 February 2021

Dear Parent,

### **Year 8 Parents' Evening and Options March 2021**

#### **Parents' Evening - Tuesday 16 March 2021, 4-7pm**

Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place virtually this year using a product called School Cloud. Attendance at Parents' Evening is integral to best support your child in their learning journey and progress whilst at school. Information and instructions in relation to the use of School Cloud and the bookings process are available on our website here: [School Cloud \(theacademycarlton.org.uk\)](http://theacademycarlton.org.uk). You will also find 'how to' guides detailing how to log in and the use of video function. All appointments for the evening will be booked through the School Cloud product. **This process will open to parents from 8 March at 7pm and close on 15 March at 11pm.**

#### **Options process**

At The Carlton Academy, we give our students the opportunity to make their options choices at the end of year 8 to allow them to spend three years developing the skills and knowledge across years 9 to 11 in their study of Level 2 (GCSE and vocational) subjects. We firmly believe that this model has the maximum positive impact in terms of students achieving the best possible results and providing them with greater life chances and on-going opportunities, both here at The Carlton Academy and in their life beyond. This is a common approach across all Redhill Trust academies and in line with our core principles, delivers a broad and balanced curriculum that supports and challenges all students.

We are very aware that students in Year 8 have had a significant amount of their learning time affected by lockdown. Feedback from the recent parent survey was unanimous in supporting our model of making choices at the end of Year 8. Please be reassured that we will be allowing much more time than usual for students to discuss any possible changes that they wish to make to their chosen options after the initial deadline has passed. We want to ensure that every student has made the right choices when they start Year 9 in September and will be working very closely with students and parents through the remainder of Year 8 to achieve this.

#### **Options Evening - Thursday 25 March 2021**

This year our Options Evening will be held virtually via Zoom. Parents and students will be invited to attend a presentation from Ms Egwuma (Head of School) and Mr Byrne (Assistant Head-Curriculum) to find out about the options process. To further support students in their choices, there will also be a collection of subject videos available via our YouTube channel to supplement the option booklet which will be shared following on from Parents' Evening. In addition, information and supplementary resources regarding the options process will be made available on our website.

During the evening of the 25 March 2021 there will be two presentations. The first presentation will take place at 6:30pm till 7pm and the second from 7:15pm till 7:45pm. The joining instructions for these meetings are below, you will receive a text message several days before the event indicating which one of the meetings you are asked to attend. **It is important that you attend the correct meeting as this will be a more personalised session for you and your child.**

**Topic: Y8 Options Session 1**



Time: Mar 25, 2021 6:30 PM London  
Meeting ID: 943 7998 6539  
Passcode: TCA

**Topic: Y8 Options Session 2**

Time: Mar 25, 2021 7:15 PM London  
Meeting ID: 941 1521 4783  
Passcode: TCA

**Taster lessons**

We always give students an opportunity to experience taster lessons to help guide their choices and give them a chance to speak to their teachers about the subject. We are committed to ensuring that this still happens and are hoping that this will be possible physically in school. We are holding back in providing further details about this opportunity until we have more clarity on government plans for school re-opening. If it is not possible to provide face to face sessions due to school being closed, we will provide online taster lessons for all students to experience prior to having to make their choices. These lessons will also be recorded for students to revisit at any time during the options process.

**Initial deadline for making choices**

The date for returning your child's completed options choices is **Thursday 1 April 2021** and it is vital that we meet this deadline. We will communicate with students and parents, where required, as part of the review of subject choices and combinations ahead of confirming final courses. We are currently exploring online methods for you and your child to make their choices, further details will be shared with you in relation to this in due course. In addition, we will be providing parents with a way to contact curriculum leaders with any specific questions you may have as part of this process, again, further information will follow shortly.

We look forward to meeting with you on the evening of Thursday 25 March 2021.

Best wishes,

Ms Egwuma  
**Head of School**

Mr Byrne  
**Assistant Headteacher**