



Smithdon High School
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Dear Parents

As a school, we constantly monitor and review our curriculum to ensure that we offer an engaging, robust and deep education to our students. As part of this review process, we also consider the latest thinking and educational research to help guide our planning. As a school, we have reflected upon this research and our experiences over recent years, and we have decided to return our Key Stage 3 curriculum to a three year model. This means that Key Stage 3 will now encompass Year 7, 8 and 9. Students will complete their options process in Year 9, and commence GCSE studies during Year 10 and 11.

A three year curriculum will help us to ensure that our students are offered the very best curriculum and experiences, and that we have allocated enough time for them to explore the core subject areas deeply enough to equip them with the foundational knowledge that is important for future success as they move through their lives. The added time will allow for additional content and themes to be explored, and for key concepts to be cemented into memory. Our aim is to instil a love of learning, and passion for each subject within the students. It will allow them to have a deeper understanding of the subject as they select their option choices, and prepare for their GCSE's and beyond.

As we are changing from September 2020, it also means that Year 8 will now not need to select their options until next year, and can look forward to the additional time to explore their core curriculum. We look forward to working with each student as we help them to make individual outstanding progress.

If you have any questions regarding the options process, or the changes outlined above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

