

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



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19 January 2018

Dear Year 8 Parents and Carers

Year 8 Options Information Evening: Thursday 25 January 2018

Year 8 students will be making their GCSE option choices this term. Students have been supported in this process through Personal Development sessions, dedicated sessions in tutor time, on going support from teachers and their Head of Learning as well as two 'taster' days, in which they experienced a session in the 16 option subjects and information about a number of others available.

In addition to this we would like to invite you and your child to attend the Year 8 Options Evening on **Thursday 25 January 2018**.

The schedule is as follows:

- 6.30pm arrival, registration and information pack
- 6.45pm presentation (Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Head of Learning Year 8)
- 7.00pm visits stalls, speak to staff and students
- 8.00pm close

For the last two years students at TDMS have been the first to be able to choose their GCSE options a year earlier than normal. This decision has been a spectacular success, with higher levels of student engagement and significantly reduced incidence of students switching subjects. Current Year 9 students have been glowing about how fantastic it has been to start early. In effect, students currently in Year 8 will begin their GCSE courses as soon as they move up to the High School in Year 9 with Year 9 becoming a GCSE foundation year, helping all of our students to develop the skills required by the new and more challenging GCSE curriculum. Our more able students will also be fully stretched to achieve their academic potential as a three year model will provide increased time for all subjects.

We do understand that some students and their parents may feel daunted by the prospect of having to make such critical decisions in Year 8. TDMS however, has an established reputation for providing clear guidance to ensure all our students make sensible and informed choices. We are incredibly excited by the success of our new options programme which has been enthusiastically endorsed by staff, governors and our Parent Voice Team. We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 25 January 2018**. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Yours sincerely

Mr Guy Nichols
Headteacher

Mr Rob Ward
Year 8 Head of Learning

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

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