



Mountain Ash Comprehensive School

Ysgol Gyfun Aberpennar

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S J Evans BA, MA
Headteacher

Our Ref: CG/DM
Date: 7th January 2021

Please ask for: Mr D Mead

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Year 8 parents'/options evening due to be held this evening has been postponed due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. We are hoping to re-arrange a date later in the spring term or early in the summer term for you to have the opportunity to discuss your child's option choices for next year.

As I'm sure you are aware, last year we introduced a three year KS4 which meant that pupils chose their GCSE and vocational (BTEC) option subjects in Year 8 instead of Year 9. This has proved particularly beneficial for pupils this year as the extra year has allowed more flexibility and time to teach the content of KS4 courses despite the ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also enabled us to teach a more flexible curriculum to pupils which has helped to keep them motivated and on-track. Our intention is to keep the same arrangements for next year, meaning that current Year 8 pupils will need to begin the options process soon.

If current plans stand, your child will be given a 'free choice' form when they return to school on Monday 18th January, along with a booklet outlining the courses that may be offered. This will give your child the opportunity to tell us which courses he/she might be interested in studying at KS4. However, if the COVID-19 pandemic results in schools being closed for a longer period, it may be necessary to send the form out electronically.

Please note that these choices will not be binding at this stage, they will merely to give us an indication of the subjects pupils might be interested in studying in years 9, 10 and 11. Following analysis of pupils' free choices, 3 option blocks will be created and they will need to select one subject from each block. Further details on this will follow at a later date.

It is vital that pupils make informed and considered decisions and that they fully understand the requirements of the courses on offer. As parents you have a very important role in helping and guiding your child in choosing courses that are appropriate and relevant to them. These choices will have a major bearing on his/her future employment and career prospects. For this reason, the options process is quite a lengthy one and will probably not be finalised until February half-term.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any matters in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Mead
Deputy Headteacher

