

18 January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to inform you of two changes of date with regard to the GCSE options process for all Year 8 students.

Originally there was an Options Evening scheduled for Thursday 24 January; this evening will now be held on **Thursday 14 March**.

Subsequently, the Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening will now move from Thursday 7 February to **Thursday 21 March**.

These decisions have been taken as a result of making some changes to our options process. As you may well know, Costello has traditionally run a 'mini options' process in Year 8, followed by a further options process in Year 9 – or a staggered approach, if you like. We have taken our time to reflect on the successes of this, and to incorporate the changing educational landscape in this decision, including joining the high achieving Bohunt Education Trust.

The Government, over the last three years, have released new GCSEs in all subjects which have included more content, harder content, and longer examinations. This has meant that there has been a need to devote more teaching time to this to ensure students fully benefit from the content we can now deliver. Joining a Multi Academy Trust has also brought with it many opportunities to collaborate, share best practice, and further enhance the good teaching and learning we already offer.

To this end, we have decided to move to a full options process in Year 8. The students will be fully supported in this process; all students will have individual interviews to determine their ambition, the subjects they enjoy and are successful in, and receive guidance on selecting the subjects that are right for them. The Options Evening then presents an opportunity for you, along with your child, to look at the subjects in more detail – their curriculum, exam design, opportunities, and potential careers, before having Parents' Evening to discuss each subject personally, prior to making the choices.

There will be presentations held on the Options Evening to further inform these decisions, and the steps to next take, and you are, of course, welcome to contact myself, my Senior team, or Miss Watt at any time, should you need to.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, and look forward to seeing you in March.

Yours sincerely,



Randall Jull  
Head of School