

## Trentham Academy

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**Headteacher:** Mr M Whittingham  
BSc PGCE AST PGC MED NASENCO NPQH



21 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



We realise this year has been very challenging but we believe the digital blended curriculum and the support your child has had from us will allow them to progress onto their GCSE studies next year. We want your child to have opportunity to fully explore the GCSE curriculum over 3 years to ensure any gaps in skills and knowledge can be addressed so they are not disadvantaged when they are in Year 11. We have found the additional time enables us to expand the course and to teach it more slowly which is even more important this year.

During the next 2 weeks, your child's teachers will talk to them about the range of subjects available to study from Year 9 onwards. Some of these will be familiar to your child and others will be new. We would usually hold an assembly to explain the process to Year 8 and which subjects are available to choose; we will shortly release a video presentation in place of this, providing you with an opportunity to discuss this with your child prior to the preferences virtual event.

All students continue with English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. The science course is taught as 3 separate sciences, and for most students this leads to Combined Trilogy Science, a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics resulting in 2 GCSEs. During the course, the science department will identify those students able to complete the additional work required for 3 separate science GCSEs.

Students in 8J1 and 8J2 will follow the English Baccalaureate pathway. I have attached a DfE information leaflet providing further information about this. Students in other groups can choose to do this too. This means they will need to choose either History or Geography and a modern foreign language. They will then have 2 further choices of subject. The vast majority of other students will choose 4 preference subjects from a range of GCSE and vocational courses but a small number of students will have additional English and Maths as preference 1 to further support their outcomes. If this applies to your child, I will be in touch with you shortly.



The timeline will run as follows:

w/c 1 February

- Video presentation provided for Year 8 students.
- Students complete a Firefly form with initial choices to indicate which subjects will be most popular

w/c 8 February

- Subjects will release videos describing their subject areas and the structure and format of the qualification studied.

w/c 8 March

- Year 8 Progress reports issued to parents

Thursday 11 March

- Year 8 Subject Parents' Video conferencing evening

Thursday 18 March

- Virtual Preference Evening and optional Form Tutor appointments

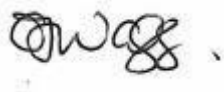
Monday 22 March

- Final deadline for Year 8 preferences to be submitted via Firefly

We recognise this is an important decision for your child to make. If you have any questions regarding this process, please don't hesitate to contact me by email using

[trentham@trenthamacademy.co.uk](mailto:trentham@trenthamacademy.co.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Ms Emma Wagg**  
**Deputy Headteacher**

**Enc**

