

27 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

After careful consideration, we have decided to re-run the Options Process. Whilst we apologise for the inconvenience and extra time that this will take, we hope that you will understand and appreciate the reasons for this decision.

As you will be aware this year we have reduced the number of GCSEs for the majority of students from ten to nine; this is due to increased number of terminal examinations that students will sit in Summer 2020. Whilst this change has been welcomed it has inevitably led to one fewer additional choice for students.

At the Options Evening, Mr Gillbanks asked all parents to raise any questions or concerns on the options form. There were a number of questions/concerns raised that we felt that we should address in order to support your requests relating to your children's choices. We felt it was only fair to offer all parents and students the chance to revisit their choices rather than just those who commented on the forms. We have listened to parents and students and are able to now offer more choice to most students.

A number of parents raised concerns that there was insufficient choice for students because we have always asked a large number of students to study a Modern Foreign Language. This was for numerous reasons: we consider the skills acquired in learning a Modern Foreign Languages to be important in the curriculum and later life; we have a well-established, highly successful Languages department and, for a number of years, significant emphasis has been placed on the study of a language by the Government. However, we have looked at the requests and our range of staff and we are now able to extend to students a wider choice. Students therefore have the option of not choosing a language if they prefer and to choose from the wider range of subjects that are equally considered as high value.

All students will study our core curriculum of:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (unless Triple Science is selected as an option)
- RE
- Core PE

All students must select one option from the following list:

- French
- German
- Computer Science
- History
- Geography
- Early Bird French (see additional information)

The students will then benefit from having the option to choose two further option subjects, either from the list above or from the wide range of additional subjects listed on the options form.

We have spoken to the students about the options process today and supplied them with a copy of the new Options form, which can also be found on our website.

We have included a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions' with this letter to address any other questions that you may have. Please do not hesitate to ask any further questions via the email link options@millthorpeschool.co.uk

We hope that this greater choice will make you and your child more confident that they are choosing the options that will achieve greatest success.

Yours faithfully,

Ms G Greenhalgh
Head of School