

September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

At our school we are committed to providing an effective and enjoyable learning experience for our students. In addition to normal lessons, where students follow the curriculum, we are delivering 4 immersion days where more in-depth learning can occur over a longer period of time to help students make better progress.

On an immersion day the normal school timetable will be suspended for all students across the school to enable them to participate in the deep learning sessions. As a result there will be no loss of learning but, instead, an enhancement of their experience in school.

Key Stage 3 immersion days will focus mainly on Ebacc subjects but will also offer opportunities to investigate the option subjects and potential career pathways in more depth as well. These will be important in helping students think about their options going into year 9 and beyond.

Year 8 will be participating in the following activities on immersion days this academic year:-

Wednesday 12 October 2016 – Zoo day - 'Habitats and Adaptations'. The science team will be offering a choice of a trip to the zoo or a series of on-site activities focusing on the theme of habitats and adaptations.

The following immersion day plans are provisional at the moment, but will give you an idea of the themes we will be offering:-

Tuesday 24 January 2016 – University experience day/careers, looking at university as an option and also thinking about future careers and what students will need in terms of qualifications and experience.

Thursday 4 May 2016 – Sex and relationships workshops (half day), and design, technical and visual arts taster (half day). Half day on essential SRE workshops, where themes including sexting and domestic abuse will be explored. DTVA taster sessions will give students the opportunity to try out the GCSE subjects in more depth, with a view to making pathway decisions.

Tuesday 11 July 2016 – Graduation (half day), and social science taster (half day). The year 8 graduation will be the first of its kind at school. Students who have collected the required amount of credits in learning and citizenship will graduate from year 8. This will be a celebration event where parents will be invited in to be a part of the occasion. Social sciences taster half day will be an opportunity to study some of the elements of social sciences before making pathway choices in year 9.

Near the time, I will write to you again with details about the activities and trips. Hopefully this letter will help you with planning for the year.

Yours sincerely



Matt Tyler
Achievement Leader for Year 8