



The Crossley Heath School

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21st June 2022

Year 7 Curriculum and Information Evening

Dear parent / carer

Over the course of this academic year the school has conducted an extensive review of its curriculum with a view to ensuring that we continue to offer the best possible education for our students. As part of the review we consulted with staff from across all departments, compared our offer with that of other similar schools and took advice from experienced external partners. Throughout the review our aim was to ensure that Crossley Heath delivers a broad, balanced and rich curriculum which inspires our learners and prepares them for future study and the world of work.

As a result of the review governors have agreed to make some changes to the school's curriculum. Currently, students discontinue some subjects after Y8 and start their GCSE courses in Y9. Following the review this will change, with students taking their options in Y9, and formally starting their GCSE courses in Y10.

This means that students will continue to study the full range of subjects, including languages, computing, arts, music and technology throughout Y8 and Y9 before selecting which optional GCSEs to study during years 10 and 11. Core subjects (English, maths and three separate sciences) will continue to be delivered as is currently the case.

The school believes that in making this change we can better provide for our highly capable learners, who will retain a greater breadth of study for longer, thus facilitating deeper learning across the range of subjects. Students will be able to engage with more challenging subject matter in Y9, even in subjects which they may not go on to study at GCSE.

GCSE courses are designed to be delivered over 2 years and given the academic abilities of our students we are confident that they will thrive in studying the option subjects in greater depth. Our aim is to ensure that students are given a thorough grounding in the key knowledge, concepts, research and independent learning which are needed for success at GCSE. These will be built in a carefully planned way which will include covering challenging GCSE-level content well before Y10.

The school will continue its current practice of reconstituting the form groups in Y9, going from 6 forms to 7. This has a number of advantages, not least in reducing class size. Next year's Y8 curriculum will be unchanged with students following the same subjects as is currently the case.

We believe that making these changes will significantly benefit our students by enabling them to study a wider range of subjects for longer, giving them a greater breadth of experience and enabling

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them to make important GCSE choices from a more informed position and when they have a greater level of maturity. Making these changes will update the Crossley Heath curriculum and bring it into line with practice in similar schools, ensuring that your child is equally well-placed when applying for future study.

We are aware that opportunities to come into school have been limited in the period following the pandemic. Accordingly, we are hosting a 'Moving into Year 8' evening for parents on Thursday 14th July from 5:30 – 6:30pm. This evening will provide an opportunity to discover what to expect in Y8, how to support your child, further information about the Y8 curriculum, and a resume of Y7 highlights.

We hope the above information is useful to you and very much hope you will be able to join us on the 14th.

Yours faithfully

Mr J. Brownlie

Deputy Head, Director of Education