



The Henry Cort Community College

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Our ref: THM/LCD

21 February 2022

Dear Parents

Year 8 Options and Subject Consultation Meetings

It will soon be time for your child to make their subject choices about their education for next year. This process, known as “options”, is an important right-of-passage that gives students some ownership of what they study for their remaining time at secondary school. It is a decision made in partnership with yourselves and the college, and we expect students to approach it with a sense of responsibility and maturity.

The college has carefully considered what adaptations we can make for Year 8 in light of the pandemic in order to ensure they are ready to make the right decisions. We believe, as we did last year, that it is more important than ever they consolidate their curriculum and focus on the subjects that are important to them. So, we have decided to continue as planned with the option process but will make some changes in order to both give them time to adapt, and ensure we fully deliver their Key Stage 3 curriculum before transitioning to GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications).

I would therefore like to invite you to the following events;

- **Course choice information evening*** on **Monday 7 March 2022 at 6:30pm**
- **Virtual Subject consultation meetings** between **Tuesday 8 -Thursday 10 March 2022** between **3:30pm and 7:00pm** to meet your child’s teachers to discuss their educational progress.

*Attendance by students is **not** required at the course choice information evening as they will receive information during on the course choice process during their PDL lessons prior to this event. Please ensure that you sign in on arrival and collect the course choice pack for your child. We will make a recording with subtitles available on request after the event.

The programme for the **Course choice information** evening is:

Presentation	Speaker	Time	Venue
Curriculum structure and an overview of the course choice process.	Ms Cabbage & Mr Mitchell	6:00pm	Cort Theatre
Individual subject advice <i>Heads of Faculty will be providing displays, information and examples of their courses.</i>	Heads of Faculty	6:30pm-7:00pm	Learning Resource Centre
Careers advice	Careers Adviser		

PRINCIPAL: Ms C Cabbage BSc (Hons), Dip Ed, MBA, CMgr FCMi

SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Mrs L Turvey LLB (Hons), MA, Mr T Mitchell BSc (Hons), MSc, Mr B Parker BA (Hons), Ms L Ferrier BA (Hons), Miss C Gudgeon BA (Hons) Mrs K Cook BA (Hons), ADSBM

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We will explain the variety of qualifications offered, the make-up of your child's curriculum and how recent government changes will impact your child, including the English Baccalaureate and the expected examination procedures. It will also give you a chance to hear about how the new qualifications will be structured.

Whilst ordinarily, students are expected to stick with their choices from the beginning of Year 9, we recognise this is a unique year and will extend this grace period. The final deadline for students to swap their choice will be October half term of Year 9. Subjects across college have also begun to alter their curriculum for the beginning part of the year to ensure the course is as accessible as possible. The first half term will act as a pathway into their full GCSE course, and may in exceptional cases allow students to transfer into other subjects if needed. Please note however this will still require approval. There must be a valid reason and cannot simply be because their friends are in another class, or they are not happy with the teacher they have. Once timetabled, the availability of other courses will also be limited.

You will be given a copy of the '*Course Choice booklet*' containing information about all the relevant courses available and access to a Course Choice Form for completion by you and your child. Throughout this process, your child's tutor, along with the Year 9 and 10 students in their tutor group will be an invaluable source of information in helping each student to make decisions about their future.

Subject Consultation Meetings

We would like to invite you to meet with your child's subject teachers after the information evening to discuss their educational progress. We are able to offer 5-minute video appointments between **Tuesday 8 March and Thursday 10 March 2022**, subject to teacher availability. It is important that your child attends the meetings with you if possible so that they can be part of the discussion.

Teachers will be managing their appointments over 3 evenings. They will start at **3:30pm and finish at 7.00pm** and will be scheduled at 6 minute intervals to include a minute break between appointments. Please note if your child is considering studying Catering, Design and Technology or Textiles next year, appointment slots will be open to the whole year group and will strictly be on a first come first served basis.

To help the proceedings flow smoothly, we will be operating an appointment system. Our [online booking system](#) is now available. If you have not previously used this system, a help sheet is available to download on the [parent events page](#) on our website. If you have any issues accessing the parent booking system, please do not hesitate to contact us immediately.

If any teachers are unavailable on a day or time that is convenient for you, or if you wish to have a fuller discussion about your child, please arrange another appointment with the appropriate member of staff by telephoning or emailing the college.

Attending appointments via video call - There is nothing to download or install - simply login to the parent evening booking system prior to the start of your first appointment. Details on how to attend your appointment can be found at <https://support.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

The timetable for the course choice process is:

Date	Time	Process
Friday 18 February	9:00am	Parent appointment booking system goes live
Monday 7 March	6.30pm	Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 8 –Thursday 5 March	3:30pm-7:00pm	Subject Consultation Meetings
7 March – 1 April	-	Time to make the decisions
Friday 1 April	Midday	Deadline for Course Choice form to be returned to your child's tutor

This is a **vitaly important** time for your child and I do hope you are able to join us **between 7 and 10 March 2022**. Decisions made now may greatly influence your child's future career path.

If your child requires specific carers guidance please contact our Transition Manager, Mrs Connochie sac@henrycort.org.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely



Mr T Mitchell
Assistant Principal – Curriculum and Assessment