



## YEAR 8 OPTION PROCESS – 2016

### INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS

<b>IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY</b>	
<b>Options Event (TIE) Wednesday 3 February 2016 4.30pm to 6.30pm</b>	Parents, carers and students are invited to our Transition Information Event when students will be able to join a rotation of workshops held by curriculum areas, giving them the opportunity to actively engage with a subject area. Parents and carers have an opportunity to ask subject specific questions and gain a good insight into what is studied, what knowledge and skills their child will learn and how it will help in the crucial post GCSE period. Each subject area will be seeing parents and carers in 15 minute time slots and this will be on a first come, first serve basis. You will also have the opportunity to find out how the options process works and what qualifications your child will leave with in a presentation given by the Head, Deputy Head and Head of Year.
<b>Submit Options Form from Thursday 4 February 2016</b>	Students will be given their Options Form on <b>Wednesday 3 February</b> at the Options Event (TIE). They have until <b>Friday 4 March</b> to complete this form and hand it in to their form tutor.
<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening Wednesday 2 March 2016 3.30pm to 6.30pm</b>	Parents and carers will have an opportunity to ask further questions of individual subject teachers and their form tutors.
<b>Deadline for Option Choices Friday 4 March 2016</b>	Students will need to have made their decisions and handed in their Options Form to their form tutor by <b>Friday 4 March 2016</b> .
<b>USEFUL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Website and Options Booklet</b>	The Options Section on the website is continually updated and the options booklet will be given out with the options form on <b>Wednesday 3 February</b> . This is an essential source of information on the course content, skills, expectations and potential pathways for each subject area as well as some general advice on how to choose their options.
<b>Registration and Tutorial sessions</b>	Students will have the opportunity in registration time to explore and ask questions about the wide variety of options available to them. It is crucial in this time that students are also made aware of the core offering at Thomas Tallis. Your child's tutor will be a vital person in guiding your child in this process. During the fortnightly tutorial slot led by the Year 8 tutor team, students will have the opportunity to interview Year 9 students selected from all the option curriculum areas, to get a real insight into taking that subject at KS4. There will also be a specially designed PSHCE lesson focusing on life skills, aspirational thinking and acting and pathways into further education, apprenticeships and the world of work.
<b>Assemblies</b>	Each week students will have an assembly held by the different curriculum areas to get subject specialist knowledge from Subject and Curriculum Leaders. This will include an outline of the subject in terms of content and skills, what they can expect from choosing that subject and how it will be useful when they take their next steps beyond Key Stage 4.
<b>Leadership Group Guidance meetings</b>	The Leadership Group will be conducting group support sessions to help students with their decision making process and will talk about what options interest them, the careers they would like to undertake in the future and offer guidance and support in making the best decisions now to ensure a very successful future.
<b>Drop in sessions by curriculum areas</b>	After Parents Evening on <b>Wednesday 2 March</b> , a variety of drop in sessions have been organised during lunchtimes for students to speak with subject teacher specialists. We want to make sure students are fully informed before making their decisions.