June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 9 Curriculum 2020/21

At Aylesford School, we are passionate about our students achieving and developing the best possible qualifications and workplace skills to enable them to fulfil their career aspirations and gain rewarding employment. We have always encouraged our students to remain in education beyond year 11 and it is now a requirement that students will remain in full time education or training until the age of 18.

It is imperative that we offer a curriculum at Key Stage 3 that prepares our students fully for the step up into Key Stage 4. We recognise that many of our students have the ability to successfully undertake a range of courses in Key Stage 4 and in post 16 and they should aspire to undertake a range of academic qualifications or equivalent vocational qualifications which will lead to higher study at University or in a tailored work-based training programme.

With the above in mind the school has taken the decision to move back to a three year Key Stage 3 meaning that year 9 is now encompassed within this. This is in order to provide students with more a broad and balanced curriculum and time to study subjects that they may go onto choose for their GCSE’s in year 10.

Students will still study the following subjects the same as they have in year 8; English, Mathematics, Science (2 additional lessons per week), Geography, History, RE, PE, ICT and French.

The remaining subjects (Art, Music, Food, Engineering, Performing Arts & Drama) will be taught slightly differently with the remaining three periods during the week. We are asking students to rank order 1-6. 1 being their favourite and 6 being their least favourite. Students will continue to study all 6 subjects however for some of the subjects will have an opportunity to decide which of them they have more than 12 weeks’ worth.

**As an example;** we will split the year in to 3 x 12 week blocks. A student may for the first 12 weeks do Art, Music and Drama. In the second 12 weeks they may do Engineering, Performing Arts and Food. Then in the final 12 weeks we will try where possible to give pupils their 1st or 2nd choices to further develop their studies in those subjects. Which would mean they could end up doing Art and Engineering as a 1st and 2nd choice then given a third subject of Drama. This would mean that for their more favourable subjects they would end up with 24 weeks’ worth of study rather than just 12 weeks.

Please could I ask you and your son/daughter to please consider the choices below and then follow the link below to complete the google form. After this has been submitted, changes cannot be made so please take the time to consider the choices.

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| Year 9 Curriculum Choice |
| Rank order from 1-6 (1= Preferred Choice; 6= least favourable choice) |

The form must be completed by **Friday 19th June 2020** in order to organise the curriculum for the next academic year and to make sure pupils are allocated their choices where possible.

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| Art |
| Drama |
| Engineering |
| Food and Cookery |
| Music |
| Performing Arts |

Link to complete: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezh4CVUof0U-l3MjKzXA0jWpsdpXjRDnWk51LcjbcL-stzBA/viewform?usp=sf_link>

Once all students have submitted their choices and classes have been organised, a letter will be sent to you confirming the choices and what students will be studying during each of the 12 week blocks.

If you have any problems completing the form or do not have any access to the internet please contact Mr Cooper on [paul.cooper@aylesford.kent.sch.uk](mailto:paul.cooper@aylesford.kent.sch.uk) or by phone on 01622 717341.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss T Kelvie Mr P Cooper

Headteacher Year 8 Progress Leader