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January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: GCSE Parents'/Pathways Evening for Year 9

We would like to invite you to the Year 9 Options presentation on **Thursday 25th January 2018**. The normal Year 9 parents evening will take place inside the Hall and Sutton corridor beginning at 4pm. For those parents who wish to find out more about the Pathway progress for Year 10, there will be a presentation at 3:30pm in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC - Hogarth Building).

The 30-minute presentation will cover the following:

1. What are Options
2. The Process and Timeline
3. General Questions & Answer session. (Specific enquiries to your child cannot be dealt with in this forum)

Over the next two weeks, students will attend an assembly outlining the options process. The Year Group will have a more detailed SPACE programme that will focus on how to make their decisions. Students have had the Pathways Booklet emailed to them personally which contains lots of valuable information and advice. Parents can access this on our website www.hestoncommunityschool.co.uk

The schedule below summarises the key dates:

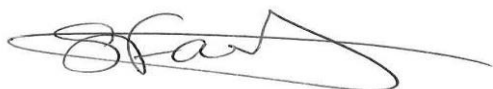
Year 9 Programme for students making their 'Options Choices' in March 2018	
ACTIVITY	DATE
Learning Coordinator uses KS2 APS & Data Harvest to determine student's Band	12. 1. 18
Year 9 Pathways Booklet emailed to students and placed on web-site	12. 1. 18
Students notified of their Band during registration, in the week beginning....	16. 1. 18

Specialist Visual Arts Academy

ACTIVITY	DATE
Deputy Headteacher Assembly to outline 'Options Process' to students	22. 1. 18
Presentation to parents in LRC at 3:30pm to outline the 'Options Process'	25. 1. 18
Parents Evening to receive feedback on their child's progress	25. 1. 18
SPACE lesson with tutors to prepare students for making 'Option Choices'	26. 1. 18
Guidance provided in a Year 9 Assembly presentation to students on: a) Separate Sciences and Humanities Options b) New GCSE courses in Dance and Business	February
Parents and student meeting with Senior member of staff to discuss 'Chosen Options' and ensure they are appropriate	27. 2. 18
Seven day cooling off period	
Deadline for 'Options Submission'	6. 3. 18
Students 'Options Confirmed' and a final three day window for 'swaps' if there are still places available on courses	25. 6. 18
Student choices locked in for the whole two year duration of the GCSE course	31. 6. 18

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 25th January 2018.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Farmer
Learning Co-ordinator for Year 9



Mr O'Hagan
Deputy Headteacher