

# **THORNHILL SCHOOL**

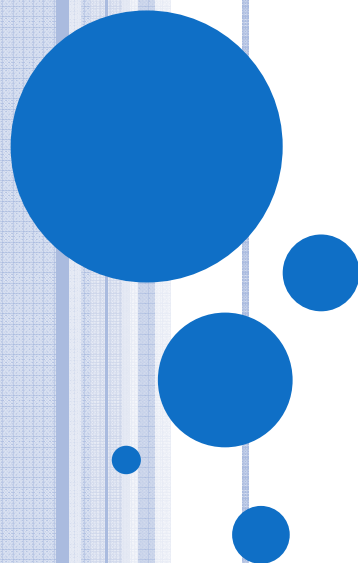
## **BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE**



# **PARENT AND PUPIL PATHWAYS**

## **INFORMATION EVENING FOR YEAR 8**

### **2015**



- Format for the evening:

- Presentation regarding the changes that have occurred in education within the last 12 months.
- How our school is reacting to these changes.
- Pathways for the next 3 years
- An opportunity to discuss courses with individual teachers.



## *WHY HAVE CHANGES BEEN MADE AND WHO BY?*

- The Department for Education or DfE have instigated many changes since the coalition government led by the Conservative Party came to power in May 2010.
- These changes were predominantly instigated by the minister in charge at the time who was Michael Gove, and has now been replaced with a lady called Nicky Morgan.



- **WARNING** following the general election result of the last few days we expect very little to be reversed or policy changes.

## HOW HAVE THINGS CHANGED..

- The media / press will have you believe that we are going back to a traditional ‘grammar school’ model...



- Well that’s not quite true – although there are a number of significant changes....

## SO WHAT ARE THESE CHANGES

- GCSEs will remain but will and have been comprehensively reformed.
- A new grading system of 9 – 1 will be introduced in 2017.
- All GCSE courses will be linear with a terminal assessment at the end of the course.
- No more modular examinations.
- The removal of coursework as a method of assessment, except for the assessment of skills.
- There will be fewer short answers and more essay style exam questions

## CHANGES ANNOUNCED CONTINUED

- English, Geography, History and Religious Studies will include marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar in examinations.
- Two new performance measures are being introduced to measure progress and attainment.
- New GCSE English Language, English Literature and Maths courses are to be taught from September 2015. (More content)
- Only a student's first entry to a GCSE examination will count in their school's performance tables. Early entry is therefore being discouraged.

## WHO WILL BE STUDYING WHAT, FOR HOW LONG AND HOW WILL THEY BE JUDGED?

- In September 2014 we introduced a 2 year Key Stage 3 and a 3 year Key Stage 4. Current Yr 9 pupils are therefore studying GCSE courses following their Pathways evening held last year. This has been successful, pupils are more engaged and interested in the subjects they are studying.
- There is more time for GCSE courses to be delivered, deepening knowledge and understanding, practising the application of new skills and most importantly, it allows time for us to prepare our pupils for those final examinations.
- Pupils will be judged on their 'best 8' results.
- This judgement is not just on the numerical grade they achieve, but the amount of progress they have made over time




OUR HEADLINE RESULTS FROM LAST YEAR  
PROVE WE HAVE IT RIGHT!



***Top school  
in Sunderland  
for academic progress***



DfE 2015



***Pupils make better than  
OUTSTANDING  
academic progress***



DfE 2015





## HOW ARE WE AS A SCHOOL REACTING TO THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS?

- In reality.....students will not experience any great change in the way that subjects are taught ... our curriculum is already close to what the Government judges to be a broad and balanced curriculum, which is ideal!
- The curriculum we offer our Key Stage 4 pupils still offers a wide variety of GCSE courses over a range of subjects.
- As a school we will ensure that we meet the requirements of performance measures whilst still placing our pupils and their future at the heart of our curriculum and school.



## *WHAT WILL EVERYONE WILL STUDY AT KS4*

- English Language and English Literature
  - Mathematics
  - Science...Most will take the Double award course which gives 2 GCSEs and alternatively the 3 separate sciences will be studied.
  - BCS
  - History or Geography (Guided choice 1)
  - French, RS, Art and Design or Graphical Communications (Guided choice 2)
  - **+1 more subject (Choice 3)**
- = 9 GCSEs or equivalent qualifications in total however we will be constantly monitoring and updating our curriculum model depending on further DfE announcements.
- PE will be delivered as core but not necessarily examined.



## CHOICE 3 - SUBJECTS

- We would like to ask ALL pupils to choose one subject from the following list of subjects:
  1. **ICT**
  2. **Hospitality**
  3. **Product Design**
  4. **Art and Design**
  5. **Graphical Communication**
  6. **Leisure and Tourism**
  7. **Music**

## *SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW ?*

- Pupils have already been given some advice and guidance about making choices in PDL.
- On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May pupils were given their Pathway booklets and Pathway forms.
- Pupils will be asked to think carefully about the choices they can make, as this will influence their next 3 years of education.
- We would ask you as parents to discuss these choices and then complete and return the Pathways form to your son / daughter's tutor.
- Return your completed Pathways form by

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**



# WHAT DOES A PATHWAYS FORM LOOK LIKE?

**Name:**

**Tutor Group:**

**Instructions:**

1. Choose another subject from Option 1 (as not all pupils will be taking MFL).
2. Choose either Geography or History from Option 2.
3. Choose two subjects from Option 3 (1 being your first choice, 2 your second choice. You will be given 1 of the 2 subjects you choose) Remember if you have already chosen a subject in Option 1 you CAN NOT choose it again in Option 3.
4. Sign this form and return it to your tutor.

CORE Subjects		Option 1		Option 2		Option 3	
English	✓	MFL	✓	Geography		Leisure & Tourism	
Maths	✓	Art & Design		History		Art & Design	
Science	✓	Graphical Communication				Graphical Communication	
BCS	✓	RS				Music	
PE (none GCSE)	✓					Product Design	
						Hospitality	
						ICT	



## NEXT PART OF THE EVENING

- We appreciate that there has been a lot of information given in this presentation, however we thought it best as a school to bring you together and present this in person rather than produce documentation to read.
- For the remainder of this evening please feel free to have a cup of tea / coffee and talk informally to the subject teachers based in the restaurant. These teachers can give you more information about the subject area which may be of interest to your son / daughter.
- And finally thank you for coming and supporting you son / daughter through these changing times.

