



Our ref: wda/ccn

24th March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Ark Helenswood Academy we are always looking to develop our curriculum to ensure that we set students up to attend their chosen University or follow the career of their choice. As such I am writing to let you know of some changes that we have been working on over the last few months which will begin in September 2016.

The likelihood is that your daughter will have to study a language at GCSE and as such we want to prepare them by dedicating the time needed for them to immerse themselves in a language by increasing the amount of curriculum time spent learning one language. We are asking that they make a choice of French or Spanish now which they will then see through to year 11 to take a GCSE in.

In addition we are asking students to make a choice now between Art & Design or DT and Drama or Music. Again this gives students the opportunity to have a greater amount of time in subjects which they enjoy and wish to develop further at GCSE level.

The students will be informed of these changes today and we hope that you will take the time to discuss the options process with them. We ask in the first instance for students and parents to fill in their initial choices, which are no way fixed, so that we can get a rough idea of what students are thinking and to aid with our planning. This can be done by following the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HWDYr8options>

There will be a curriculum information evening during the first few weeks of term 5, which you are welcome to drop in to discuss the options with subject specialists. I will send out further details of this after the Easter break. Students then make their choices by **Wednesday 4th May** by completing the attached form and returning to the lower school reception. If students do not complete the form by this deadline then they will be automatically allocated to class and subjects.

Students will then be informed of their choices towards the end of Summer term. If you do have any questions in the interim, please do contact subject teachers or myself on cconnor@arkhelenswood.org

Yours faithfully,

Chris Connor
Vice Principal – Data and Standards



PRINCIPAL: Lucy Monk



Ark Helenswood Year 8 Curriculum Options: 2016

Student Name _____ **Tutor group** _____

Please indicate your preferred subject by ticking the box below the subject name. If you have no preference then please tick the "Don't mind" box. We will try to ensure that we match as many first choices as possible but this won't necessarily always be the case.

Please ensure that you have ticked one of the options in Languages, one of the options in Creative Arts and one of the options in Performing Arts.

Languages

<input type="checkbox"/> French	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't mind
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Creative Arts

<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Design Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't mind
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Performing Arts

<input type="checkbox"/> Drama	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't mind
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: _____ (Student)

Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer)

For admin
Form return number: _____

Date _____