



# St Luke's Science and Sports College

A Church of England (VC) School founded in 1873

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Principal: Dave Holt



11<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Parent/ Carer



All students in year 8 will shortly start the process of choosing their Options for next year which will be the start of their 3 year KS4 so I am writing to outline the process for you, with some important dates and to explain our guidance procedures. This is the first time we have asked year 8 students to make choices about certain subjects but we hope that it will allow them to focus on areas they are most interested in and give them extra time to develop and consolidate the skills which will be needed for new examinations.



I will meet with year 8 on Friday 22nd January during assembly to outline the choices available. All information about the Options subjects we are going to offer will be available on the website or as a hard copy from January 18th. Your child will be guided by their tutors and teachers about making the best choices but of course your advice will be very important so I hope you will read through the courses with your child and support their decisions. Now is the time to consider career aspirations, future education or training and the type of learning your child will most benefit from and enjoy. If thinking about a future career seems rather daunting please remember that the core subjects provide enough breadth to ensure that a balanced curriculum will be achieved and it is therefore best to choose subjects you enjoy and are interested in.



On February 3rd we would like to invite all Parents and students to attend an Options evening from 4.30-6.30pm with a presentation in the hall at 5.00pm. All staff are available during the evening, including Exeter College and Devon Careers service, to answer specific questions about any courses. It will be a very busy evening with limited car-parking so please bear this in mind when planning your transport and parking.



Head Start  
2011/12

On arrival at the Options eve you will be given a personalised, colour-coded Options form for your child. We are offering 3 pathways which are based on Autumn 2 data to ensure that students choose the appropriate level of academic challenge to match their ability and future aspirations:



- Ebac Pathway-pink- will follow a full Ebac selection of subjects, which the Government has indicated they will soon be making compulsory, including either triple or double science, an MFL and either or both History and Geography.
- General Pathway-yellow- will follow at least some Ebac subjects but not necessarily all.
- Vocational Pathway-green- will be for a very small cohort of students for whom a more personalised curriculum, including some level 1 or unaccredited courses may be more appropriate at this stage of their development.

All Pathways will require students to make some choices beyond the core subjects which every student in the Country studies, including Maths, English, Science and RE. We will continue to teach PSHE and PE core to all students.

The completed forms, including reserve choices, must be handed in to your child's tutor on Monday 8th February. We will offer a first come, first served system but we cannot guarantee a place on a course or that a course will run if we have an unviable number opting for it. Once a child is accepted on a course there will be a three week trial in September and after this there will be no more changes to timetables so please encourage your child to choose carefully and find out as much as possible about the course before they commit to it.

I will look forward to meeting you on the 3rd February to begin this exciting process and of course, if you have any concerns or questions, please contact me here in College. Well-informed choices at this stage are likely to lead to greater enjoyment and success over the next three years and beyond and I am very keen to support you and your child to achieve that happy outcome.

Best wishes



Gail Whalley  
Deputy Principal