

14th May 2021

Dear Year 8 Parents/Carers

Re: Year 8 Pathways

At Staffordshire University Academy we have reached a critical time of year for our Year 8 students as they begin to make decisions about the curriculum they would like to follow in Year 9. The curriculum we offer at SUA is centered on creating life chances for our students, offering them far reaching and broad experiences.

From September, our current Year 8 students will be able to study optional subjects that they have expressed a preference for in the 'mini' options straw poll. These optional subjects will offer them more curriculum time and allow them to develop a deep and broad understanding of these subjects. Please note, that these subjects will only be for Year 9, at the end of Year 9 students will again be allowed to choose from several option subjects and will not be restricted to the subjects that they choose now. An overview of the curriculum and the option subjects that are available to Year 8 students is overleaf.

The decisions that you and your child make regarding these options may affect their future career pathway, therefore it is vital that both you and your child discuss about the learning pathways on offer at the academy.

Students have had an assembly to outline the process of picking their options and will receive information from subject teachers and form tutors regarding the options that are available to them and how to complete the process. A copy of the presentation can be found on the academy website and has been developed to help inform the choices that your child will make.

The deadline for completion of option choices is **Monday 24th May 9.00am**. We will be asking students/parents to submit option forms online and the link for this will be shared with you via email and text.

We believe that this curriculum will offer students an excellent platform to build upon their work at key stage three and prepare them well for their studies at our sixth form, SUA6, or other post-16 choices. If you need further details about how to complete the form, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email info@suacademy.co.uk or telephone 01543 224700.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Andrew Washbourne
Director of Curriculum

Mr Rob Porter
Head of Key Stage 3

YEAR 8 PATHWAYS

BLOCK A

FRENCH | SPANISH

BLOCK B

DT | CATERING | DRAMA

ART | SOCIAL STUDIES

BLOCK C

DANCE | DRAMA | DT

MUSIC | CATERING

STUDENTS WILL PICK 1 LESSON FROM EACH
BLOCK AS THEIR FIRST CHOICE.

STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO
PICK A RESERVE FROM EACH BLOCK.



#TeamSUA

We will endeavour to offer students their first subject preferences but we cannot guarantee this and reserve the right to remove subjects if there are insufficient student numbers.

A summary of the subjects is below.

Art: explore the creative process using a range of techniques, media and materials expanding knowledge and understanding of other artists, designers and craftspeople work.

DT: to develop creative skills through the design and making process. You will have a range of opportunities to experiment and explore with a range of traditional techniques and modern technology.

Music: students will explore performing, composing and appraising through many different genres of music. Students will also be able to hone their skills on several different instruments There is no expectation of prior knowledge or ability.

Dance: Students will learn and replicate in performance many different styles of dance, whilst having the opportunity to choreograph and appreciate others work. There is no expectation of prior knowledge or ability.

Drama: Within drama students will have the chance to rehearse, perform and evaluate performances across many different genres. There will be an emphasis on equipping students with the key skills needed for the stage and also offer students the chance to learn about technical theatre.

Catering: Catering will develop skills and cooking techniques over 6 units, covering international cuisine, special diets and nutrition. Each unit will explore a single topic of the catering industry and focus of key products that relate to the season.

Social Science: As humans, we are, innately, problem solvers. Looking inward, be it at ourselves through psychology, or at our society as a whole, through sociology for example, we like to question, analyse, and look for answers. Social sciences subjects allow us to do just that.