



ST CYRES SCHOOL

Strive Together Challenge Yourself Realise Everyone can Succeed

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HEADTEACHER/PRIFATHRO

6 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to Curriculum Model September 2019 Onwards

I am writing to advise you of forthcoming changes to our curriculum model as follows:

Current model

- Students follow the Key Stage 3 programme of study in Years 7, 8 and 9 (i.e. for 3 years)
- Students follow the Key Stage 4 programme of study (preparing for GCSE or equivalent qualifications) in Years 10 and 11 (i.e. for 2 years)

New model – September 2019 onwards

- Students will follow the Key Stage 3 programme of study in Years 7 and 8 (i.e.; condensed into 2 years)
- Students in **Year 9 next year** and each subsequent year will follow the Key Stage 4 programme of study (preparing for GCSE or equivalent qualifications) in Years 9, 10 and 11 (i.e.; extended to 3 years)

N.B. Next year's Years 10 and 11 will remain unaffected by this change.

This decision has not been reached lightly. An outline of the key rationale can be found below:

- A significant and rapidly increasing number of schools have already made this change. We have consulted / visited a sample of such schools and received extremely positive feedback.
- Students will have access to a **broader curriculum** at Key Stage 4. Following the introduction of Welsh Baccalaureate at Key Stage 4, our students currently choose four options subjects but have less time than previously to study for GCSEs in Religious Education and Welsh, which are compulsory subjects in Wales.
- An extra year will allow subjects to be **studied in greater depth**. As well as being more stimulating for students, this will reduce the necessity to rush to finish courses (including after-school / school holiday revision sessions) which can cause added stress to students and staff. Reducing pressure will **improve student well-being**, and more thorough preparation will lead to **better outcomes**.

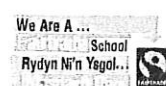
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



- The increase in teaching time will also lead to greater scope for planning enrichment activities for students.
- Students will be able to drop subjects they are disengaged with a year earlier, i.e.; Year 8 rather than Year 9, thus helping to sustain interest and enthusiasm.

Therefore, Year 8 students will make their option choices in March 2019, and there will be an Options Evening for parents on Tuesday 15 January at 6 pm to allow us to explain in more detail to you the ramifications of this change.

In addition, there will be the standard Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening on the afternoon of Thursday 24 January.

Students currently in Year 7 will undergo the same process in Spring 2020.

My staff and I look forward to meeting Year 8 parents on 15 January when we can discuss this exciting change in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J P Hicks', written in a cursive style.

Dr J P Hicks
Headteacher