

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021



**The Queen Elizabeth  
Academy**

“We Can and We Will”

**Parents and Carers  
of Y7 and Y8 TQEA students**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We write to inform you that TQEA is extending Key Stage 3 to three years. Therefore, your child will continue to study the current broad range of subjects throughout Year 9 (during the next academic year).

This means there will be no option process for Year 8 students. Students will now choose their GCSE options when they are in Year 9. We are committed to allowing personal choice for options, and so the number of GCSE options will still remain at four. By increasing the number of hours per option subject, there will still be the appropriate number of guided learning hours to complete the study of subjects within two years (Year 10 and Year 11). In line with government expectations, we will be directing all students to study one Humanities subject and will be directing most students to study a Modern Foreign Language. Like previous years, that still leaves two free option choices for the majority of students.

There are a variety of reasons for this change. At the forefront is an ethical reason: while we are very proud of how our Year 8s have continued their education during the periods of remote learning, we know that their experience of KS3 has not been as enriching as it would have been if they were in the classroom. It also allows every student the opportunity to study all subjects thoroughly and in depth as required by the National Curriculum and ensures all students are armed with the cultural and academic knowledge to which they are entitled.

This move will remain permanent for future years and is aligned with our new curriculum vision. Before the global pandemic, this move had already been made across schools nationally, including schools in our Trust. Departments are investing time to ensure that their KS3 curriculum encourages personal development and empowerment, increases subject capital, develops employability capital as well as transmits social and cultural capital. It is an exciting move, and our curriculum plans will be admired for their ambition and for developing the knowledge and skills of our students, allowing them to compete with the highest performing students nationally and globally. This is at the heart of our vision, to ensure that every student at TQEA receives an extraordinary education.

If you would like further information, then please contact Mr Armishaw ([r.armishaw@tqea.org.uk](mailto:r.armishaw@tqea.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Armishaw  
Assistant Principal  
The Queen Elizabeth Academy