

7 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Options Evening – Wednesday 14th March 2018, 4.30pm – 6.30pm.

At Ormiston Maritime Academy we are constantly reviewing our systems and procedures to ensure that our students are in the best position to fulfil their potential, both academically and beyond the classroom. Recent changes to the structure of GCSE courses have meant that there is a greater amount of content that needs to be covered ahead of the examinations at the end of Year 11. In response to this we have taken the decision to alter our own curriculum model to fit a part-three year Key Stage 4. This will allow our students to begin studying one examination course at the start of Year 9 and will, therefore allow them sufficient time to learn and master the knowledge and skills required by the new, more rigorous examinations. It will also allow us to add a wider choice of subjects with the possibility of taking some qualifications in Y10.

This, of course, means that our students will now be required to select one of their GCSE options during Year 8, rather than making all choices in Year 9 as they have previously done. This is not a decision that we have made lightly and, throughout the process, we have consulted widely with other schools who have successfully implemented similar models. As a result of this process we are confident that this change to our curriculum will have direct benefits for all of our students.

I am therefore writing to invite you to our **Y8 Options Evening**, which will take place on **Wednesday 14th March 2018**, between **4.30pm** and **6.30pm**. Heads of Department for each option subject will be available in the Zone to provide information and answer your questions about the content and requirements of the courses available between **4.30 & 4.50pm**. We will also be serving a selection of the food available at lunchtime in in the Zone. At **4.50pm** a talk will be delivered in the hall by the Principal to provide valuable information regarding KS4 and Post-16 pathways for learning and beyond. This talk will be repeated at **5.50pm**. Departments will also open up rooms and you will be welcome to visit these rooms from 5.15pm. Post 16 providers from Grimsby and beyond will be in Centrepont to answer questions about further education.

The Options Process:

Over the coming months, Ormiston Maritime will provide students with comprehensive guidance on their options through assembly presentations and individual interviews with students. Most students will base their option choices on a decision purely on their enjoyment of specific subjects and this is to be encouraged, as students who enjoy their courses are more motivated. However, it is also important to ensure that they select a balance of subjects in Y8 and Y9. The options booklet provides further guidance relating to the core subjects that must be studied as part of the curriculum in Year 9, 10 and 11. In addition, there is an outline of the course content and assessment procedures for each of the available option subjects. Please use this information to help you make your choices. We will try to ensure that you receive your first choices, but this cannot always be guaranteed.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 14th March.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C G Russell
Assistant Principal