



Dear Parent/Carer

We are sending out this letter to give you and your child information about the curriculum that pupils follow as they move from Year 8 into Year 9 at Blessed Trinity - rest assured that most of your child's subjects and classes will remain the same. We make some small changes that are designed to strengthen the quality of your child's education in readiness for further Option choices later in Year 9. The changes, which are explained below, involve the following subject areas:

- *Technology and Computer Science*
- *Performing Arts*
- *Science*
- *Modern Foreign Languages*

Computer Science and Technology

We ask our Year 8 pupils to choose to study specialist courses in **two** of the following Computer Science or Technology areas in Year 9.

- Coding
- Catering
- Graphics
- Resistant Materials
- Textiles

Pupils will study one course for half the year and then swap to the other course in the second part of the year. Computer Science and Technology both offer pupils from our region excellent employment prospects in the future. As such, we aim to give pupils a taste of deeper learning in these areas in Year 9.

All Year 9 pupils will continue to study IT. The Coding course provides an additional opportunity for pupils, with an interest in this exciting curriculum area, to develop their expertise.

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts department at Blessed Trinity is popular and highly successful. Our Year 8 pupils will all continue to study Music next year. When it comes to Dance and Drama however, we give them a choice. We ask our Year 8 pupils to choose one of the following three options to study in Year 9:

- Dance
- Drama
- Production Skills

Science

Pupils start their GCSE Science course in Year 9. To support this, we organise Science sets separately from other subjects from the start of Year 9. Your child does not need to make any choices about Science this year, they just need to be aware that their Science set may change as they move from Year 8 into Year 9.

Modern Foreign Languages

These changes only affect pupils in sets 1, 2 and 3 who are currently study both French and Spanish. Pupils in sets 1, 2 and 3 choose **one** of these languages to study in during Year 9. Pupils in sets 4 and 5 continue to study French throughout Year 9

We took the decision to allow all pupils to specialise in one language several years ago and have been delighted by the rise we have seen both in results and also in the popularity of languages as an option choice later in Year 9.

What do you need to do next?

Computer Science, Technology and Performing Arts

Pupils need to use the Options form (see link below) to submit their preferred options for Computer Science, Technology and Performing Arts.

*****The completed form must be submitted by Friday 12 June 2020*****

[OPTIONS FORM](#) – Please click here.

We have attached some information about the [Coding Option](#) (please click here), further information for Performing Arts and Technology is being uploaded to SMH for you to read. Pupils are most welcome however to contact their Computing, Technology or Performing Arts teachers for more information.

MFL

- Pupils in sets 1, 2 and 3 need to inform their MFL teachers about their choice of Spanish or French. French and Spanish teachers will be in touch to explain this.
- Pupils in sets 4 and 5 need to take no action

I understand that this is a lot of information to send out by letter. Whilst I hope we have been clear, do remember that we are here to help with any queries you still have. Most importantly, we send our best wishes to you and your families in these difficult times.

Yours faithfully



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