



HITCHIN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr J. E. Crowther

Ref: 167

15 April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Choices for Year 8

Welcome back, we hope your child enjoyed the Easter break and you got some time together as a family.

During Year 7, students have experienced a carousel of 4 subjects in their timetables: Drama, Spanish, Ancient Civilisations and Latin. In Year 8, all students will study two of these subjects and, at the end of Year 8, they will choose one of these to study further in Year 9. During Year 8, students will spend two hours a fortnight on each of their chosen courses. We are now at the stage where students will need to decide which two subjects they wish to study next year.

Choosing which subjects to continue with in Year 8 is an exciting opportunity. These do's and don'ts might help your child when making their decision:

DO		DON'T	
✓	Do get as much advice as you can. If you don't know something, ASK. Talk to your parents, tutor & subject teachers.	X	Don't think you are expected to know at this stage what you want to do later in life; the curriculum is constructed to keep open as many doors as possible
✓	Do find out as much as possible about the courses on offer: what will you learn and how?	X	Don't choose a course because your friend is choosing it; you might find yourselves in different groups.
Y	Do try to choose those subjects you are <u>good at</u> or <u>enjoy</u> , since this will improve your chance of success.	X	Don't choose a course because you like the teacher you have now; you may have a different teacher in Year 8.
✓	Do decide yourself: it is <u>you</u> who will be studying your chosen subjects.	X	Don't worry if you can't fit everything in. Some subjects can be picked up again in Year 10.



We will place students in groups following two of the four subject areas and we will build the timetable based on student preferences – however, **whilst we will build our timetable to fit the options selected as best as possible, it may not be possible to give every student their first two preference choices. Therefore, it is very important that students think carefully about their reserve choice.**

Information about the process of choosing and the details of the subjects to choose from will be shared with students on 29 April via an assembly and we would recommend that you talk through the information provided with your child. It is important to note that if a student chooses not to study Spanish or Latin in Year 8, then they would usually not be able to re-select these in Year 9. This is not the case for Drama and Ancient Civilisations. If students have any questions about the courses I would encourage them to contact their class teacher directly via the school email.

Parents are asked to submit their child's preferences via the Google form below. Preferences can be submitted from Monday, 15 April and must be completed no later than Tuesday, 7 May. If you require support please contact the Exams and Data team via exams@hgs.herts.sch.uk.

[Submit your choices here](#)

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the Heads of Department of each subject area.

Yours sincerely,



Mr
Deputy Headteacher

A

Jones