



SPECIALIST SCIENCE COLLEGE

HEADTEACHER : B J BAXTER

THE COOPER SCHOOL

Churchill Road

Bicester

Oxfordshire

OX26 4RS

Tel : 01869 242121

Fax : 01869 362693

Email : headteacher@thecooperschool.co.uk

Website : www.cooper.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents

January 2017

Key Stage 4 Pathways Evening for Year 9: Thursday 26th January 2017 – 4.30 pm to 7.00pm

The Key Stage 4 Pathways process for current Year 9 students starts in earnest over the next couple of weeks. I'd like to take this opportunity to list the various steps and inform you of the support available for you as parents and for the students themselves.

The first stage of the Pathways process will be the issue of the Guide to Courses Booklet to all Year 9 students during an assembly on Friday the 20th of January. They will then receive a personalised Pathways Form during registration time in the week of Monday the 23rd of January. Form Tutors will also provide your son/daughter with a guide to choosing subjects which they will be encouraged to complete both during registration time and at home with your guidance.

Following on from this we will be holding a Key Stage 4 Pathways Evening on **Thursday the 26th of January**, which will provide you and your son/daughter with extra information and advice which will be of help in making decisions about which courses to opt for during Years 10 and 11.

During the evening you are invited to attend two separate events. One of these will take the form of a Curriculum Presentation by senior staff. This will take place in the **Performance Hall at 5.15pm and will then be repeated at 6.15pm for parents of current Year 9 students**. The presentation will last approximately 20 minutes. Please note that presentations will also be taking place at 4.45pm, 5.45pm and 6.45pm for parents of current Year 8 students (as students in this year group will be following a three year Key Stage 4 pathway).

The second event is a more informal Pathways Fair at which all subjects will be represented. You will have a chance to "visit" as many departments as you like to ask questions about the courses they offer. The Pathways Fair will take place in the Sports Hall and will run from 4.30pm – 7.00pm. **It is highly recommended that parents who are able to arrive in time for 4.30pm start of the Pathways Fair do so, in order to talk to staff before the evening becomes busy with parents of students in both Year 8 and Year 9 attending the same event.**



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We will follow this event with the Year 9 Parents' Evening on **Thursday the 9th of March** at which you will have the opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's progress with all of their subject teachers to help to finalise choices.

In addition to the Pathways Evening, we will be running events in school to support your son/daughter in choosing appropriate subjects, which will include subject specific information and careers related guidance. Form Tutors, Heads of House and Student Support Managers will be available to support throughout this process and I am available to answer any further queries.

We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that all Year 9 students have a continued place at The Cooper School and that we are confident that our broad, successful and established curriculum offer is unrivalled. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Dr. R. Whannel
Assistant Headteacher