St Cuthbert Mayne School

Joint Catholic and Church of England 11-18 Comprehensive School Dioceses of Plymouth and Exeter

Headteacher
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Dear Parents,

Re: The School Curriculum

I am writing to inform you of some important changes to our curriculum structure which came into effect from September 2020.

Students in Key Stage Three now have a three year programme of study in a broad range of subjects and students in Key Stage Four now have a two year programme of study as required by GCSE and BTEC specifications.

Why have we made these changes?

Schools are now required to keep their Key Stage Three curriculum as broad as possible for as long as possible to enable students to develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. Nationally, a two year Key Stage Three has been recognised as being too narrow and this has had a disproportionately negative effect on the most disadvantaged students. At St Cuthbert Mayne School we want to ensure we have an ambitious and well connected curriculum, which provides a breadth of essential knowledge and skills that enables all students to be successful and live life to the full both now and in the future.

The topics and concepts studied at Key Stage Four can be challenging and require a large body of general knowledge and skills which then allow students to learn successfully. By giving students more time to develop their knowledge and skills at Key Stage Three, we are enabling our students to be better equipped to learn the more complex knowledge needed to be successful at Key Stage Four.

Students starting GCSE courses in September 2021

This year, students in Year 9 will be selecting their GCSE courses in the first half of the spring term in preparation to start their GCSEs in September 2021. We will write to all Year 9 parents before Christmas to outline the process for selecting GCSE courses. We will also post on our school website the Year 9 Pathways Booklet for 2021 which will contain all the subjects we will be offering at Key Stage 4 and the support available to help students make informed choices.

Yours sincerely

Miss S Kingdon
Deputy Headteacher