

28th June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Humanities Provision – Y9

As you will be aware, our Y8 pupils have been enjoying lessons in both Geography and History in Y7 and Y8, in order to give them a broad understanding of each subject area. It is evident from our Y8 data collections that our students have been embracing the opportunities they have had to make excellent progress in their humanities studies, which is very pleasing to see.

You will also know, from our communications earlier in the year, that we are changing our options process slightly, to enable our young people to experience our Creative Arts and Technology subjects for an additional year before making their final choice about which ‘free choice option’ to study at GCSE level. Typically, these subjects are studied for one hour per week in Y7 and Y8 and students most often find making their ‘free choice option’ in Y8 the most difficult.

Therefore, we are asking our Y8s to choose one humanity subject to specialise in from Y9 so they can really study it in depth. We have left making this choice for as long as possible, to ensure our Y8s have had plenty of time to learn lots of History and Geography. We have also waited until our final data collection to begin this process with our students to allow them focus on their assessments and then focus on making their humanity choice afterwards.

In order to support your child in deciding which humanity to specialise in, it may be helpful to do the following things:

- Explore their report, released on Friday 1st July, looking at their attainment in each subject.
- Discuss the aspects of each humanity subject your child enjoys studying and which one they have enjoyed studying the most.
- Look through the presentations given by key staff that outline the overall process and what students will be studying in either Geography or History.
- Contact your child’s History and Geography teachers.

Once you have worked together to make the decision, please access our Google Form using the link in the table below. You will need to enter their name, form and their humanity choice.

Via email and informal conversations, several families have expressed an interest in their child studying both Geography and History at GCSE level. We do usually offer a second humanity as the ‘free choice option’ and varying numbers of students make this choice each year. Please be aware that for this cohort, if your child wishes to take GCSEs in both Geography and History, they will need to choose to study Geography in Y9. They will then choose History as their ‘free choice option’ in Y9, ready to begin their History course at the start of Y10. This does mean that these students will not study History in Y9 but our History team is planning the course very carefully to ensure that students

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who choose this route receive the same excellent quality provision as students who have chosen History for Y9. The main difference is that students will not study the Cold War topic allocated to the Y9 curriculum as that is not an examined topic.

To assist us in working out how many students are interested in following the dual humanities pathway, please make sure you complete the question about this on the Google Form. We will then advise further on an individual basis, as needed; as with all 'free choice option' subjects, sufficient students would need to select this in order for it to be a viable option to run in September 2023.

The process is as follows:

| Date | Action |
|---|--|
| Tuesday 28 th June | Letters sent to Parents/Carers Google Form opens Humanities Choices Assembly for Y8 students |
| Tuesday 28 th June – Wednesday 6 th July | Teachers discuss in lessons with students Home-school contact as needed Complete the Google Form using this link: https://forms.gle/AGWmPDawKCXZ2euq8 |
| Wednesday 6 th July | Google Form closes |

Contact details for key staff members:

| Name | Contact Details |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Miss D Crompton Leader of Learning for Geography | d.crompton@becketonline.co.uk |
| Miss L Martin Leader of Learning for History | la.martin@becketonline.co.uk |

Thank you for supporting your child in making this important choice. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of staff to discuss their choice. We look forward to supporting them through this process and into Y9.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C. Quirk

Assistant Headteacher
Geography

Miss L. Martin

Leader of Learning for History

Miss D. Crompton

Leader of Learning for