June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

From September 2019, Design Technology and ICT/Computing are going to look very different. They are being combined to create a curriculum which better fits the world our students are going to live and work in with regards to 'STEAM'. Our intention is to provide all students with the best possible skills and experiences to enable them to flourish in the fast-changing and highly technical jobs of the future. This curriculum will help our students apply and combine knowledge and skills learned across the school to solve real world problems. It will also make them more aware of the huge variety of careers available in the STEAM industries and the pathways through education to reach them.

Indeed, this means that Year 9s will have a great opportunity to mould their learning to better suit their interests and strengths. On Friday 5 July, students will make some selections from a list of ten workshops. These are more specific in their content than the current curriculum, and are tailored towards a certain career path or skill set. Each workshop will provide students with an experience of a real world, industry-led problem or project, and help them gain the skills and knowledge to complete it. By the end of the year, students will have completed four workshops, each lasting around nine weeks, and will come away with a clear understanding of STEAM careers and a strong set of new and more advanced technology and computing skills.

Further details of the workshops will be discussed with students in an assembly on Wednesday 3 July. Some of these details are provided on the Virtual School via a link sent alongside this letter. We encourage all parents/carers to read through this in order to support students in their decisions. Can we also ask that parents/carers help to ensure that students bring their fully-charged iPads for the Friday session, and that they know their Microsoft 365 login and password. They can get support for this from their ICT teacher if necessary.

Yours faithfully

Alex Childs

Head of STEAM

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