



# COPELSTON HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

Copleston Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 5HD.  
Principal Mr S. Common BA PGCE



March 2017

Dear [parent name]

## Making Choices – Life Skills Option

As you know, [xxxxxx] is going to shortly be making some important decisions about their subject choices for Key Stage 4.

It is essential that each individual makes choices that enable them to be as successful in their studies as possible. In addition, their subjects must provide them with the skills and knowledge that they will need for their futures, in terms of both their career and personal life.

We have spent some time looking at how we as a school can best accommodate each Year 8 student in their education during the next three years. This involves looking at the courses that we offer and how we can best meet the needs of each individual.

We have looked carefully at [xxxxxx]'s attainment data from the end of Key Stage 2 and the progress they have made since joining Copleston. As a result of this, we would strongly recommend that [student name] selects the Life Skills course as one of their choices at Key Stage 4.

In addition to English, Maths and Science lessons [xxxxxx] will firstly select four options, taken from a range of available choices and alongside this they would complete the Life Skills course as their fifth option.

A fifth option of the Life Skills course will be designed to equip young people with experiences and skills that are needed in adult life. This includes the development of leadership skills, decision making skills, teambuilding skills alongside enhancing the important character traits of responsibility, respect, resilience, resourcefulness and self-reflection.

The units that will be studied include the following:

- Finance, which features lessons on how to manage money, paying bills and other such hands-on tasks,
- Personal Safety, which includes lessons on online safety and First Aid.
- Enterprise, the organisation and running of a programme of activities where the students will try to raise money, after each activity they will review their performance and then use the knowledge gained to improve the profits in the next task.

We will use external agencies such as St John's Ambulance and visits to offsite facilities to reinforce these themes and ensure the students get the most impact from the course. Students will complete portfolio work that will be assessed each term instead of an exam at the end of the course. At the end of the course students will also receive a Copleston High School certificate outlining their achievements on the course.

We feel that this fifth option will suit [xxxxxx] very well as the literacy and social skills that will be

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment



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Email: mail@copleston.suffolk.sch.uk. www.copleston.suffolk.sch.uk



developed will enhance [xxxxxx] ability to achieve success in other subjects that are chosen. We also believe that the course will really help (xxxxx) to achieve high levels of success in all their other GCSE qualifications which are, as you have read, becoming increasingly more demanding.

We would ask you to discuss this with [xxxxxxx] before the Making Choices information evening on Wednesday 15 March. Enclosed is the Making Choices booklet and you can find further information about the Life Skills course in it.

During the Making Choices evening, the Course Leader, Mr Terry, will be based in the Social Area where the Life Skills course will be explained in detail. We would strongly advise you to go along to see Mr Terry to find out more.

If you have any questions about this before the evening, please contact Miss Bradshaw, Head of Year 8, Mrs Das, Head of Lower School or Mr Terry, Life Skills Course Leader.

We look forward to seeing you at the Making Choices information evening.

Kind regards

Mr A Green

Vice Principal (Curriculum)