



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Person(s) with parental responsibility,

As you may have already seen from your daughter's timetable, the way students are grouped in Maths, Science, English and PE will be changing. This has taken effect from Tuesday 8th September as your daughter begins her GCSE and BTEC studies.

In Maths and Science, students will sit either Higher or Foundation tier exam papers. Each tier is targeted at a range of the numerical grades: 9 to 4 on the higher tier, and 5 to 1 on the foundation tier. The exam papers for English and most other subjects are not tiered and all students can achieve from grades 9 to 1. Tiers of entry are not required on application forms for 6th form or university.

The process of restructuring classes for these subjects has involved a considerable amount of time and thought from the English, Maths and Science teams. We have worked hard to ensure all students have been put in classes that will support them to make excellent progress over the next two years. That said, we appreciate that a very small number of students may need to move classes, if, following a period of review, we feel there is a more suitable class for them.

Science

The decision about which Science pathway students are entered for is made by the Science department. The Science department will be putting students into 8 sets from September which typically divide entries as below. The majority of students will take Combined Science however, final decisions about whether students take 1, 2 or 3 Science GCSEs are not made until Year 11 and will be based on a combination of assessment data and teacher recommendation.

Combined Science (Grades 9-1) Class codes: 10CSA, 10CSB, 10CSC, 10CSD 10CSE	Five classes will be entered for Combined Science GCSE. This is equal to 2 GCSEs. A final decision about tier of entry will be decided in Y11. These classes are largely mixed ability.
Triple Science (Grades 9-4) Class codes: 10TA 10TB	Two classes will be entered for GCSE Biology, GCSE Science and GCSE Physics. These classes are in broad ability groups.
Biology GCSE – Foundation tier (5-1) Class codes: 10BI	One class will be entered for GCSE Biology only.



Maths

In Maths, students have been put into new ability sets based on tier of entry. These judgements have been made based on holistic performance throughout the year, not one single assessment. Final decisions about tier of entry will be made in Year 11.

Maths Higher tier (Grades 9-5) Class codes: 10XY1, 10XY2, 10XY3, 10XY4	Four classes will work towards the Higher Tier paper. These are set by ability.
Maths Foundation tier (Grades 5-1) 10XY5, 10XY6, 10XY7, 10XY8	Four classes will work towards the Foundation Tier paper. These are set by ability.

English

All students will be entered for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. These are both qualifications without tiers; all students could achieve Grades 9-1. Students have been placed in broad-ability groups which will ensure that lessons are tailored to their needs. All groups will cover the same content.

PE

Core PE classes, which are part of all students' timetables, are mixed ability and students are allocated to these classes at random. This is separate from GCSE PE which is a subject selected by some students.

Yours faithfully,

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Assistant Headteacher