



15 September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Education Reform

I am writing to provide you with a further update on the changes taking place within the sector. You may be aware that GCSEs and A-Levels have already been reformed in some subjects and that the new qualifications are being phased in over a number of years. It is the staggered nature of these changes that complicates this update; therefore, I have decided to dedicate a paragraph to each year group and allow you to refer to the relevant passage depending on the age of your child. The reforms are cumulative and so I would encourage you to read down to your child's year group to understand the changes that will have gone before. Obviously, the normal caveats apply to any statements made about our intentions going forward but I hope that by stating our current plans parents are informed of our current thinking.

Year 13

This is the first cohort who may be following a reformed A-Level qualification. I say 'may' as it depends on the subjects they are taking. Two-year linear A-Levels are now operating in Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Economics, English, History and Physics. In these subjects, the final grade is entirely dependent on performance at the end of the course (i.e. Year 13). All other subjects remain modular with the AS exam continuing to contribute 50% of the final A-Level grade.

Year 12

This is the second cohort who may be following a reformed A-Level qualification. Two-year linear A-Levels are also now operating in all subjects, except Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Classical Civilisation and Design Technology. The students will sit their chosen reformed AS examination in the summer of Year 12, alongside AS examinations in any unreformed subjects. This means the number of AS examinations sat at the end of Year 12 will vary from student to student, depending on the subjects taken. Alongside any AS examinations, students will also take internal examinations in any reformed subjects they are planning to study in Year 13.





Year 11

This will be the first cohort to sit the reformed GCSE qualification in Mathematics, English Language and English Literature. To emphasise that these qualifications have been reformed, the grading system will change from A* - G to 9 (high) – 1 (low). Given that there are nine divisions in the new system and only eight in the old, there is no direct translation from one to the other; however the same proportion of students who used to get A and above under the old system will continue to get Grade 7 and above in the new. All other GCSE subjects remain unreformed and so these students will receive a mixture of grades and numbers at the end of Year 11. When this cohort reaches the Sixth Form, every A-Level subject will have been reformed. Students will continue to choose four subjects on entry to the Sixth Form with the intention of reducing to three in Year 13, producing a standard programme of three A-Levels and one AS-Level. In order to allow students to certify their learning in the subject they will drop at the end of Year 12, we intend to ask students to nominate their AS subject early in the Spring Term of Year 12, giving them a term's worth of experience in each subject to draw upon. The students will then sit their chosen AS exam in the summer of Year 12, alongside internal examinations in all other subjects.

Year 10

This cohort will sit reformed GCSEs in every subject except DT.

Year 9 and below

This cohort will sit reformed GCSEs in every subject.

There are a number of other reforms (mainly relating to school accountability measures) that you may be aware of, which were also mentioned in a similar letter sent to parents last year. We are largely unaffected by these reforms due to the curriculum we already offer.

I hope that you have found this update useful – I appreciate that it may all seem very complicated – but feel free to contact me at the email address below if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

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