



Ref: PDB/AB

3 June 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 9 Students

Firstly, may I congratulate Year 9 for their enthusiasm and engagement in their work whilst working at home. Their positive attitude will set them in very good stead as they formally start their GCSE scheme of work from September. Usually at the end of Year 9, following the end of year exams, the current maths sets are reviewed with reference to the end of year result, performance in IPMs during Year 9 and after discussion with the respective teachers about student engagement in class.

Following the decision that there will be no end of year exams this year, it has been decided that any change in the make-up of the sets for Year 10 should wait until we can complete a formal summative assessment, hopefully sometime during the Autumn term. Initially keeping the sets the same as this year will ensure familiarity among the boys and hopefully ease their start in September, especially if the teaching climate remains difficult and working sometimes from home remains the norm. It is planned that all sets will be taught the GCSE curriculum at the same pace (with additional extension and enrichment for those students who master the content more quickly) until a formal assessment is possible.

It is important to remember that all St Olave's students are targeted GCSE grades ranging from 7-9 (old A/A*) and will all learn the same syllabus. We hope that the boys enjoy their maths and are curious to learn but as you can imagine they all have different processing speeds and the different sets (set 1a, set 1b, set 2, set X, set Y) are established to ensure each student has the time and support needed to achieve an excellent maths grade at GCSE.

The boys have worked exceptionally well in their sets this year and I hope that this decision to initially keep the sets for mathematics the same for next year will avoid any uncertainty at the start of Year 10 and ensure a fair decision is made once a clear assessment is possible.

I hope you and your families are all well.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bassett
21/C & Key Stage 4 Coordinator for Mathematics