



17 July 2023

Dear parent/guardian/carer

Re: Transition into Year 9

As your child transitions into Year 9, they may notice that we switch to our GCSE timetable structure. The GCSE timetable structure allows us to provide specialist teachers for all subjects – particularly in the sciences (Physics/Chemistry/Biology). In order to facilitate this, class names change from our three-band model (P/H/S) to our two-band model (X and Y class names). All students are therefore placed in to new teaching groups for all subjects from September.

YEAR 8 SETTING ARRANGEMENT			YEAR 9 SETTING ARRANGEMENT		
8P1	8H1	8S1	9X1	9Y1	
8P2	8H2	8S2	9X2	9Y2	
8P3	8H3	8S3	9X3	9Y3	
8P4	8H4	8S4	9X4	9Y4	
8A			9X5	9Y5	
			9X6	9Y6	
				9YASP	

In Year 9 there are four timetable blocks which consist of different classes (groups of students):

- **Block 1:** Consists of classes in English, French, Geography, History, PSHE and Religious Studies. Students are in the same grouping for these subjects. Setting is derived from English.
- **Block 2:** Consists solely of Mathematics. Setting is derived from Maths.
- **Block 3:** Consists of classes in Science and Computer Science. Students are the same grouping for these subjects. Setting is derived from Science.
- **Block 4:** Art, Drama, Music, Product Design, Food & Nutrition. Students are the same grouping for these subjects. Block 4 is a mixed ability grouping, there is no setting.

The Directors of English, Maths, and Science determine settings for the blocks based upon a range of data. This data is primarily, although not purely, driven from recent assessments. Students who were in the academic stream during Year 7 and 8 may be placed in to classes other than 9X1 or 9Y1 as they move in to a GCSE setting structure in order to better support their needs.

In Year 9, we start to move our thinking toward GCSE options which are selected shortly after the spring half term (February 2024).

Yours sincerely

Mr K Lean
Assistant Headteacher