



SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Head of School: Mrs R Onnis

Executive Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

3 September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of our continued development, we have now introduced a new teaching group structure for all Year 7 and Year 8 students from this academic year.

Children will now have:

- **A form time group**
- **A Technology and PE group**
- **Sets for Maths and English according to ability**
- **A teaching group** for all other subjects, including Science, Humanities, Art and other foundation subjects

This approach is used successfully at Shelley College and across other schools within our Trust. After careful consideration, we have decided to adopt this model as we believe it offers a number of significant benefits for our students.

Some of these benefits include:

- Opportunities to widen friendship groups and develop new social connections
- Increased confidence through working with a broader range of peers
- Improved communication and collaboration skills
- Greater preparation for the structures students will encounter as they move through secondary education
- The dilution of friendship group issues and social difficulties that can sometimes arise within a single form group
- A reduction in the need for frequent form group changes throughout the year

Moving forward, this will be the standard arrangement for our Year 7 and Year 8 students, helping them develop important life skills while supporting both their academic and personal growth.

Pupils will remain in their forms for pastoral time each morning and afternoon. This means that their registration, tutor support, and daily check-ins will continue within their established form groups, maintaining consistency in the pastoral care they receive.



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These teaching groups were carefully organised over the summer, and students have received this information on their new timetables today.

Please note that these groupings have been created to meet the needs of the curriculum and the wider school community. As a result, teaching group allocations are not open to individual requests for change. We appreciate your support as we implement this positive change and look forward to seeing the benefits it brings to our students throughout the year.

This does not apply to Key Stage 2, and our Year 6 pupils will not be allocated a 'Teaching Group', they will stay as a form for all other subjects with just groupings for Maths/English, Technology/Drama and PE.

Kind regards,



Mr C Taylor
Executive Headteacher



Mrs R Onnis
Head of School

