

3 October 2016

Dear Year 10 Parent/Carer

Year 10 Curriculum Changes – GCSE history, geography and French.

You may be aware that the Level 2 Threshold for a student's overall performance at Key Stage 4 is changing in 2017. This new measure is called 'Attainment 8'. We believe it is important to work with students to achieve good outcomes on both Attainment 8 and 5+ 'good' GCSE grades, particularly in English and maths for their future life-chances. These measures will be used by many colleges, apprenticeships, employers and universities in their admissions criteria, to determine the suitability of candidates for particular courses or jobs.

For the first time in 2017 (for current Year 11), GCSEs in English and maths will be graded 9-1 (9 being the highest). From 2018, GCSE grades in French, history, geography and science will also be graded 9-1. These new grades will then count towards a student's new Attainment 8 score.

We are committed to equipping all our students with the Key Stage 4 qualifications needed to ensure that they have the best possible chance of success in the next phase of their life. Therefore, we feel that it will be beneficial for current Year 10 students studying French, history or geography to start the relevant new GCSEs immediately and then continue them into Year 11. Although the new GCSE course content is different, the students will be in an excellent position to build on the important skills already developed during Year 9 and will have guaranteed further time included within their Year 11 timetable. Due to the flexibility of our curriculum model we are able to make this happen whilst still providing the opportunity for guided and personalised pathways into Year 11.

Why are we making these changes now? These new GCSE 9-1 courses in French, history and geography were not available when students chose their options; they only became available to start teaching this September.

We are holding an information evening on Thursday 6 October, 5.00-5.30pm, which you are welcome to attend if you require any further details.

Yours faithfully

Miss J Ferris
Assistant Principal
Deep Experience