



HEADTEACHER: Mr K Ford

29th September 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

Further to the information evening which took place on Tuesday 12th September, I would like to clarify the setting procedure for the core subject areas of English, Maths, and Science in Year 9.

English

- All students in year 9 are taught in mixed ability sets within their houses and all students follow the same [curriculum](#). When students commence their GCSE courses in September 2024, they will for the first time in English be set according to their academic ability in one of three sets within each house. As with the other core subject areas there is fluidity between the groups in both ways so that at all times based on assessment data and professional opinion students learn in the most appropriate environment.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher or Ms Timon, Head of English.

Mathematics

- In year 9 each house has 3 teaching groups in. There are 2 equal top sets which will appear as groups 1 or 2 on the timetable and these students are following a [curriculum](#) with the expectation that they could sit the higher GCSE paper in June 2026. Students in the 3rd set are currently following a [curriculum](#) that will see them sit the foundation paper in June 2026.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's maths teacher or Mrs Guy, Head of Mathematics.

Science

- Throughout the last academic year, students were assessed regularly to ascertain their progress. The combination of this, conversations with each class teacher, and progress grades has determined the set that each student is in.
- Students placed in Year 9 set 1 are studying the GCSE separate science course. This means, students would obtain 3 GCSEs in science in the 3 science disciplines if they were to sit these examinations in June 2026. Students placed in sets 2 and 3 in Year 9 science are in a **mixed ability** combined science trilogy set. This means students would achieve two consecutive science grades at the end of year 11. For example, a 5-5 or a 6-5. Students still study the same topics as separate science, and follow all three sciences, they are just assessed in a different way.
- Any student placed in set 1 achieved advanced or exceptional consistently throughout the last academic year and following discussion with class teachers, this was deemed the most appropriate course for these students.

- We would like to reassure you that no matter which [curriculum](#) your child is studying, this in no way impacts their ability to study an A Level in one or more of the science subjects, providing they meet the entry criteria for the science discipline that they wish to study.
- Progress is monitored throughout the academic year and course moves are possible. This works both ways, if a student studying separate science is underperforming consistently, they may be moved into the combined science set. If a student studying the combined science course is outperforming their peers consistently, they could be moved into the separate science set. This would not be based on just one assessment/ test and would only be actioned following discussion with you as the parent/carer, your child and the child's class teacher(s).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's science teacher or Mrs Bennett, Head of Science.

Finally, for any Year 9 Parents or Carers who missed our Information Evening on Tuesday 12th September, please follow this [link](#) to access the presentation I delivered on the evening.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Taylor
Director of Learning, Year 9