

SCRIPT FOR YEAR 9 PARENTS/ STUDENTS: reducing their options by 1

Information and facts:

Current number of GCSE subjects studied by nearly all students:

Compulsory:

- English Language = 1 GCSE
- English Literature = 1 GCSE
- Mathematics = 1 GCSE
- Double science = 2 GCSE grades **OR** Triple science = 3 GCSE grades
- History or Geography = 1 GCSE

Extra non-examined subjects:

- RE
- PE

Students then currently have 3 option subjects that they are studying in addition to the above. We are wanting students to reduce this by 1.

This means that most students will now study 9 GCSE subjects rather than 10. The average number of subject students study is 9. They **ONLY** really need 8 for strong GCSE grades as their platform for A levels or BTEC level courses, leading to university. It is about **the grade** they achieve in each subject and **NOT about the number of subjects**, and this is what 6th Forms, colleges and universities always stipulate.

Why are we doing this?

1. Students will have lost a term of work and learning which will have a significant impact on the students' progress and attainment
2. By reducing the options by 1, it will protect the students from unwarranted pressure and stress to catch up on the content that has been missed.
3. 1 less option provides more curriculum time for all other options, thus providing more time for deeper learning

What is it that the school needs to know?

What is their first and second choice of subjects to drop? (record on the student calls in extra columns)

What should we consider when making this decision?

1. Enjoyment of the subjects
2. Achievement and current success in the subjects

Use the Y9 assessment data received to inform them of this decision

What does my child's assessment data mean?

1. The Target is the GCSE minimum target grade
2. The current grade is their child's grade at December 2019
3. Reward Points: positive points achieved
4. Behaviour points: the negative points due to behaviour incidents
5. Present: % achieved as of December 2019
6. Authorised absence: absence where we have received a justified reason
7. Unauthorised absence: absence where it has not been approved or authorised
8. Lates: % of arriving late to school as of December 2019

The next assessment was due to take place in summer 2020 but will now not take place.

How do I use this to inform my decision?

1. Compare your child's current grade to the target grade
2. Compare the difference between the student's current grade and their GCSE minimum target grade
3. Where there is a greater difference, this will indicate where your child may be finding the work more difficult or where you child may be underperforming.
4. Speak to your child, ask to see their books if they have them and discuss each subject:
 - a. Which do they most enjoy? In which subjects are they achieving really well? Which subject are they achieving least well and why?

What if we cannot make a choice?

Please contact the HOY to discuss this and if necessary, we can enable the relevant subject teacher to contact you, where possible.

Is this definitely going to happen?

It will all be dependent on the feedback we receive from students / parents. Nothing is definite until we have all the information and we have evaluated its impact and if it is all feasibly to implement. Once we have the decision, we will inform parents accordingly, but this is unlikely until July 2020.

When will this be implemented?

It would start in September 2020 when your child begins their year 10.

Please note: Year 10 is a full academic year but year 11 is only 2 terms: autumn and spring after which examinations begin in May 2022.

Can we change our mind in July September 2020?

Unfortunately, we will need a final decision by the end of April in order that we can plan the timetable for September 2020.