



April 2020

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

I sincerely hope that you are all keeping safe and well. These are extraordinary times and whilst the priority is your child's health and safety, I know you will be concerned about the amount of learning that your child is missing.

On our web site we have a great deal of information for students and for our parents, including an FAQ sheet where we hope to answer your questions. If there is any further support we can offer you and your child, please contact us via email.

We have been reviewing the implications for students in year 9 and we are trying to pre-empt the number of challenges that will add pressure to our year 9 students as a result of missing so much learning. The GCSE subject content is challenging, complex and requires extensive teaching. Despite the challenges the lockdown presents, we want your child to have the very best chance of achieving their highest grades in the GCSE exams in 2022.

As a result, we are looking to reduce the number of GCSE subjects that each student will study. All year 9 students currently study the compulsory subjects:

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Science: double science equates to 2 GCSE grades and triple science equates to 3 GCSE grades

History or Geography (studied as one of their Option subjects)

Core RE or core PE (non-examined subjects)

This is a total of 6 or 7 GCSE subjects and grades, excluding the non-examined subjects. However, your child is also studying 3 additional option subjects. We believe it is essential and beneficial to reduce this to 2 additional option subjects to give them additional time to work hard and to obtain the best grades possible in their remaining subjects.

Your child will have to continue to study one of History or Geography in their option choices but we propose they drop one of their 3 remaining option subjects to give them additional time to work hard and to obtain the best grades possible in their remaining subjects.

You will have seen your child's autumn term assessments for December 2019 and this will provide you with the list of subjects that your child is studying as well as an indication of their attainment as of December 2019.

When deciding which of the three options your child would like to continue studying, together you should consider not just which subjects they enjoy but also look carefully at their overall performance in the autumn assessments. Please decide on a first choice and a second choice subject to stop studying.



Please note that if your child is currently studying Dance or RE as a GCSE option, they must continue to study these subjects.

Once we have all the information, we can then assess the feasibility of all the decisions and we will be able to confirm the final subject list for each student. Your child's full subject list will be communicated after the June half term at the earliest.

We will do our best to minimise the impact of the loss of school time by ensuring your child has the best opportunity to catch up on any learning they have missed. Reducing the number of subjects that they will study as of September 2020, will also enable your child to focus all their effort and attention on one less subject in order that they achieve the very best outcomes in their GCSE exams in 2021.

Over the next 2 weeks, we will be contacting each parent to check on your child's welfare and to record your decision about reducing your child's option subjects and we will require you to provide us with a first and a second choice.

We do miss our students and look forward to welcoming them back to school. In the mean time, year 9 students should, as expected, be accessing the learning on Show My Homework and completing the work to the best of their ability.

Please take great care of yourself and your family and do contact us should you require any support that we might be able to provide.

Stay healthy and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne Powell
Executive Principal