12 June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

English Set Changes – Year 9 into Year 10

Although it seems strange in June to be writing about the ‘end of the year’ and start of Year 10, we are surprisingly close to the end of the 2018/2019 academic year and the End of Year Exams have just been completed.

We would also like to advise that 2019/2020 class placements for the new academic year will be finalised before the end of term. To clarify, English classes have a suffix of 1-4. Generally, 1-2 is the top stream, and 3-4 the second stream.

Therefore, we would like to advise the following to help students and their families understand class placements:
Students can be moved from one stream to the other and that means a student in a 1 class may move into a 2, 3 or 4, and likewise, a student in a 4 class may move into a 3, 2, 1. Clearly group sizes must also be taken into account and not all students can be placed in ‘top stream.’ However, there is no longer different tiers of entry for the English Language or English Literature GCSE and thus, all students are entered for the same examinations in Year 11 and follow the same curriculum.

When setting students, we consider their end of year exam, their performance throughout the year, in addition to their ATL (Attitude to Learning). If you have any queries about this process, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Ms Bourne (KS4 co-ordinator) who works in close conjunction with Mr Blissett (KS3 co-ordinator) in deciding on group moves.

We believe that it is vital for students to be placed accurately, and fairly. Please note, we reserve the right to also at times consider placements in groups based on other needs if deemed necessary due to the professional opinion of our teachers. That said, we try to place students with transparency. The former (‘accurately’) is by looking at summative results and the efforts over an entire year. We hope by explaining this process, parents and carers are reassured that this is our practise.

If you would like to have this clarified, please do not hesitate to get in contact with either Mr Blissett or Ms Bourne, and we ask that you put in the subject line class placement query 2019/2020.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Ms S Doyle
Head of the English Faculty and AAHT