12 June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

**Set Changes in English**

Although it seems strange in June to be writing about the ‘end of the year’ and start of Year 11, we are surprisingly close to the end of the 2018/2019 academic year and the End of Year Exams are about to commence.

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.

Students in Year 10 going into Year 11, will be assessed from their end of year exams and that will form 75% of their placement, with the remaining 25% based on the year’s assessments and ATL (attitude to learning). While we like students to have continuity and work, if possible, with the same teacher in Years 10 and 11, we also have to assess whether group moves are necessary and continually review class placements to ensure students are placed correctly.

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 Ms C 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