



12th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 9 Tutor Groups Reorganisation

I am writing to you regarding the current provision for Year 9 students and an adjustment we are making to bring the students' curriculum diet closer to what they would typically experience at this stage of their education. At present year 9 students are in tutor group 'bubbles', with all lessons delivered to tutor groups as a whole for the vast majority of lessons throughout the week.

Within the core subjects of English, Maths and Science students have begun programmes of study for their GCSE examinations. Under normal circumstances teaching groups for these subjects are determined by prior attainment at Key Stage Two and academic performance throughout their time at Boswells. With this in mind we have taken the decision that from Monday 16th November we will be reorganising students into new tutor groups that take prior attainment and academic performance into account. The process of arriving at these groupings has been driven by attainment and progress data gleaned in Science and Maths, both this academic year and throughout students' time at Boswells. Whilst other performance indicators have been taken into account, the tiered nature of the GCSE courses for both Maths and Science meant that data from these subjects was at the forefront of the process in order to maximise the benefit of the change for all students. Students for these groups have been selected with great care and will be regularly reviewed.

In each half of the year group there will be one extension group and three mixed ability groups. These groups will be in place for the lessons where groups are taught as a whole (all lessons other than Performing Arts and Languages). Support groups taught within English and Maths will continue for those students already in those groups and a Science support group will also feature on some students' timetable from Monday.

Whilst we would ideally want students to be able to move freely around the school site following a typical timetable this is not currently possible, particularly in light of the move into a second national lockdown. This change is an important step to support the progress of all students and staff to enable them to access and deliver bespoke lessons tailored to the needs of the students. We hope to soon be able to integrate year 9 students into a timetable that incorporates access to specialist classrooms across the curriculum and are keen to do so as soon as we are able to do so safely.

The information for your child's new timetable will be emailed to you tomorrow (Friday). Please can you talk through their timetable with them to ensure that they know which classroom they are based in and where they need to report to for registration on Monday morning. The new timetables will also be made available in Satchel One (Show My Homework) and the SIMS Parent and Student apps over the weekend. Each tutor group will be spoken to by their tutor and a member of the Senior Leadership Team on Friday morning during registration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

Yours sincerely

Simon Jones
Acting Deputy Headteacher