

7 April 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, after the May half term, Year 8 will be set separately in Maths. Additionally, we will be adjusting and reviewing entire year group classes in other subjects too.

The School feels that it is important to re-set pupils at this point, because up until this point, they have been set according to Key Stage 2 grades and progress in English, Maths and Science. These subjects demand different skills and, to continue with our current setting arrangements, may not fully reflect students' abilities or achievements accurately in their setting.

Individuals' progress has also varied across the year group, with some students accomplishing outstanding achievements. In the interests of fairness, classes must therefore be reviewed to ensure that all students are in the class in which they deserve to be. Further to this, all students will have recently started their BTECs, these will continue throughout Year 9, and it is important that they are set as accurately and fairly as possible for this.

As such, classes will be reviewed during May 2011, and any changes that are made will be done solely on pupil attainment: The top 90 pupils in the year group will form the Alpha Band, with the A and B Bands comprising 60 pupils each.

May I take this opportunity to reinforce that these proposed set changes are not in any way to be seen as a sanction. They are intended so that all pupils receive the most appropriately levelled lessons and best possible education.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Harwood
Head of Year 8