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Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Friday 10 March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Curriculum September 2017

Since September, the school and governors have been reviewing the curriculum that we provide for our students.

Currently, we teach seven periods a day. Six of these are for forty five minutes, and one for forty minutes. We have decided to move to six equal periods of fifty minutes as from September 2017.

Benefits for this decision include:

- Increased teaching time in each lesson
- Consistent times for every lesson
- Less movement around school as fewer periods in the day
- Ability to match our timetable with consortium schools to allow more collaboration in the Sixth Form
- Shorter afternoon session (currently 2 hours 15 minutes)

From Year 7, students will have the opportunity to study a second language, instead of waiting until Year 8. All students will study French and they will then have an option to study German, Italian, Russian or Spanish.

Drama is currently taught in Year 7 for one period, but then not in Year 8 or 9. As from September, students will receive one period a week of Drama throughout Years 7-9.

As part of this review we considered the subjects that we offer to our students, particularly in Years 7-9. PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) is currently delivered once a month for one hour to all year groups. As from September, Year 7 and 8 students will receive one hour a week of PSHE. Year 9 students will receive PSHE through extended time in RE lessons, and Year 10 and 11 will have a collapsed timetable day once a term where they will have a carousel of 6 sessions each day. We value PSHE highly, and the course will include topics on citizenship, careers, positive relationships, revision techniques, student wellbeing and money management as well as others.

In Years 10 and 11 an increased amount of time has been given on the whole to core subjects. The increased content in the new GCSE core subjects is significant and more teaching time is required. As in previous years, students are expected to study a language and a humanities subject, with two free choices. For a small number of students there will be a modified curriculum which will better suit their needs.



Students in Year 12 and 13 will receive six periods a week for each of their A level subjects, equating to five hours a week per subject.

In September we will be taking 180 new Year 7 students, in the past our intake has been 170. We already have six teaching groups in Years 7-9, but only five forms. We will move to six equal forms which will be the teaching groups for most subjects.

Due to the changes in the curriculum we have the opportunity to change the times of the school day to bring us more in line with other schools.

The full curriculum for Years 7-11 has been provided as an appendix.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Warren', followed by a period.

Matthew Warren
Headteacher