

GROUPING POLICY

Rationale: Students should be taught in combinations to allow them to make the best progress towards achieving their potential. These combinations will include a variety of mixed ability groups and defined ability groups.

In Year 7 all pupils are placed in mixed ability tutor groups. All students in year 7 follow courses in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Philosophy & Belief, Modern Foreign Languages (either French or Spanish), Drama, Music, Technology, Art, Physical Education, ICT and Personal, Social & Health Education. Students are taught in their tutor groups for all subjects except Technology, Mathematics and MFL. Smaller mixed ability groups of around 20 are created for Technology Lessons. Mathematics and MFL are both taught in ability sets.

In Year 8, the same range of subjects is followed with the addition of German for the two top sets in MFL. Science is now also taught in broad ability sets. Art, Drama, Music, English, Geography, History, Philosophy & Belief and ICT continue to be taught in mixed ability groups although these are new groups, not tutor groups. This is done to allow flexibility to rearrange student grouping to separate students who are not working well together.

In Year 9, the courses followed are the same as in Year 8 with the addition of a new subject, Enterprise, which addresses issues of business, commerce, work related learning and citizenship. Enterprise forms part of the Humanities curriculum and is taught in humanities groups. The Humanities faculty also deliver two discrete units of citizenship as part of the History and Geography curricula.

In KS4 students study a core of subjects prescribed by the National Curriculum and a number of options. Science, Maths and MFL use ability groups where possible. English is taught in mixed ability groups with the exception of students likely to achieve an A* who are taught in a single extension class and students who have difficulty in accessing the curriculum who are taught in a small class with the support of the SENCO. Other subjects may use ability grouping as numbers permit.

A more detailed breakdown of course content is given in the booklets - Lower School Courses and Upper School Courses. These are easily available in school.

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Policy Review - March 2010