



Sandbach High School

and Sixth Form College

Our Academy, Our Future

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 Classes

At this time of year, as your child prepares to move from Year 9 into Year 10 and the timetable takes shape, over the coming weeks there will no doubt be discussions in lessons and between students about which classes they will be in for each subject next year.

Currently in Year 9 pupils are taught in classes based on ability for Maths, Science, Modern Foreign Languages and Computing, with the class for these subjects comprising the same pupils. For all other subjects they are taught in mixed ability classes.

As the system changes when pupils move to Year 10, I am writing to you now about those pupil groupings, so that when your child receives their timetable you have all the necessary information regarding the classes to which they have been assigned.

In Maths, Science and Modern Foreign Languages there are two tiers of entry for each exam: Higher (grades 9-4) and Foundation (grades 5-1), there are details below for each subject regarding how the tier of entry relates to the set a pupil is in. For all other subjects all students sit the same exam.

English

In English end of Year 9 holistic data for students is used to create 10 classes which are loosely banded. There is a narrower mix of ability than at Key Stage 3, but we retain a range to ensure that, with support, stretch and challenge, all students are able to reach their academic potential. 10B2 students, for example, could be of the same ability as 10B4 students. Some slightly smaller groups are created for those who will benefit from this learning environment.

Maths

In Year 10 in Maths students are placed into sets 1-5 based on their overall performance in class work and tests in Year 9. At this time the tier of entry for the GCSE examinations is not decided and therefore being in a particular set does not signify a pupil will be sitting the Foundation papers or Higher papers.

Science

In Year 10 and 11, Triple Science students are placed into sets based on their form groups (Biology and Chemistry) or the option pool which they chose Triple Science from (Physics). They are therefore mixed ability but tend to be small classes. Combined Science students are set 1-4 in each half of the year based on their ability. At this time each student's tier of entry for the GCSE examinations is not decided and but it is likely that sets 1 and 2 will be mainly Higher tier students and sets 3 and 4 mainly Foundation tier. The Entry Level Certificate in Science will be offered to a small number of set 4 students as a back up to their GCSE qualification.

Modern Foreign Languages (French/Spanish)

In Year 10 in Modern Foreign Languages students continue to study the language they have been learning in Key Stage 3 (French or Spanish) and are placed into sets 1-4 based on their overall performance in class work and tests in Year 9. At this time the tier of entry for the GCSE examinations is not decided and therefore being in a particular set does not signify a pupil will be sitting the Foundation papers or Higher papers.

Other subjects

All other subjects are taught in mixed ability groups and this also applies to French/German where the language is being studied as an additional GCSE.

At the time of writing, no sets have been finalised for those subjects using them in Year 10, this information will be available to your daughter in due course when her timetable for next year is issued.

I hope you will find this information useful, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's subject teacher or the Curriculum Leader.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Betts

Associate Headteacher