

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Y8 Lessons and Groupings

You may well have noticed a few differences in grouping arrangements and timetabled lessons from last year and perhaps been unsure of what those changes mean.

Understanding the group codes

In a number of different subject areas, students are no longer taught in their learning groups. Where this is the case, the year group is divided into two halves for the purpose of timetabling and one half is labelled X (all students who are in learning groups 1-4) and the other labelled Y (all students who are in learning groups 5-8). After the identification of the year half, subjects are identified by a subject code (e.g. En for English, Ma for Maths, Sc for Science) and a number representing the group that your son/daughter is taught in.

What do the numbers for the groups mean?

The following departments introduce some form of grouping by prior attainment in Y8 and they make use of a variety of assessment information about your son/daughter in order to do so.

The number that follows the subject code indicates the teaching group for your child and whilst the same numbers are used (1-4), this can mean *something different* for each subject area. Please see the chart below for further information.

| Subject | Groupings |
|-------------------|--|
| Design Technology | The groups are taught in mixed ability DT classes |
| English | The groups are taught in mixed ability English classes |
| Maths | The groups are taught in ability sets 1 to 5 |
| French/German | The groups are taught in mixed ability language classes, based on what language your child opted for as language choices are made before the end of Year 7 |
| PE | The groups are taught in ability sets 1 to 4 |

The primary aim of any decision about grouping within the curriculum is to ensure that each student is placed in the group where they are likely to make the best possible progress. The groups will be reviewed regularly by departments to ensure that students are placed appropriately.

Modern Foreign Languages

Whilst the majority of Y8 students will now study either French or German, some students will follow one of our intervention programmes so that they can receive support to help them develop their skills across the curriculum.

PE

Students will be taught in single gender groups until 27th November and then learning groups until 15th April. After this, they are then split into both mixed gender and single gender groups until the end of Year 9. These are organised broadly by both prior levels of attainment and physical confidence. The aim is to have all students working in

a group that allows them to make the most progress in skill development and confidence, maximising participation and opportunities for engagement.

Hopefully, this information will clarify some of the queries you may have had about your child's timetable and help you to understand what it means for them in practice. If you have any further **general questions** about the organisation of classes in Y8, please contact me at school using the email address below.

If you have any subject specific questions relating to the content of this letter, please direct them to the following Heads of Department:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| Design Technology | Ms Whitehead | amy.whitehead@st-laurence.com |
| English | Mr Chadwick | james.chadwick@st-laurence.com |
| Maths | Mr Moody | james.moody@st-laurence.com |
| Languages | Ms Gorton | georgina.gorton@st-laurence.com |
| PE | Mr Carter | jason.carter@st-laurence.com |

Yours faithfully

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