



Ref: Admin/comm/lets/SLT/20-21/Y9curriculum

7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Year 9 Curriculum Transition**

It is with much pleasure that we welcome back students and parents to the new academic year.

At options evening, just prior to the COVID restrictions being imposed on schools, we set out the transition pathway to Key Stage 4. Please be reassured that the transition into Year 9 is in place and has been adjusted following the disruption to learning last year, to ensure that all students are supported and able to learn successfully.

Students have received their new timetables today and you will see that they have been allocated their option choices. But please be assured they will not be starting a GCSE journey too quickly. There will be time and opportunities to catch up on curriculum areas, and review learning from Year 8. It is important all students get the opportunity to reinforce the learning of key concepts, to ensure they are able to move forward confidently, with a firm curriculum foundation as they move into GCSE studies.

Many of the developments that have been made to the curriculum will seem 'invisible' to parents and will simply look like your child completing their work in class. The main area where parents may notice a change, especially if you have had older children progress through their GCSE studies, is in assessment for Year 9 this year.

Assessment requirements for GCSE courses and GCSE grades will not form part of Year 9 learning. Year 9 students will continue with percentage targets and all assessments (QMAs) will be marked using percentages. Year 9 students will not be set GCSE examination papers, instead their assessments will reflect their curriculum and will cover the 'transitional' knowledge, skills and understanding being learnt in class. GCSE target grades and assessment requirements will begin in September 2021, in Year 10.

More information and guidance on assessment will be shared in due course. Below is a summary of the main points that may be helpful to know now:

- Students will be issued with percentage targets
- Students will continue to complete QMAs in every subject
- All subjects this year will set 6 QMAs per year
- The dates for all QMAs are listed on the QMA calendar
- There is no 'On Track' Ladder this year (eg increment steps towards targets)
- All Year 9 students should aim to achieve or exceed their target percentage in every QMA
- QMAs content over the year will focus on moving from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 content
- QMAs in Year 9 will therefore become progressively harder, preparing students for GCSE
- There is no link between percentage targets and final GCSE targets or performance
- QMAs are marked in percentages to allow students and parents to identify which areas of a subject are secure and not secure, needing more work
- Next year, at the start of Year 10 your child will be allocated GCSE target grades

Yours faithfully

L Lakin (Mrs)  
Assistant Headteacher