



Beaumont School

Austen Way St Albans Hertfordshire AL4 0XB t: 01727 854726

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Headteacher: Mr M Atkinson e: head@beaumont.school

25 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, your child will start their GCSE Option courses after May half term. They should, before the Easter holidays, have brought home a letter confirming their GCSE choices. I will be issuing their new Timetables next week during Tutor Time. You will also be able to access their timetables shortly on My Child at School. Before these Timetables can be published, I do need to explain to all students, parents and carers the changes that will be taking place within the half year groups.

Up until this point forms: BLEA have made up what we refer to as the 'x' half, and forms: RNS have made up the 'y' half. This is used when timetabling Maths, English, Science, Languages, Technologies and Physical Education. To enable all students to be assigned their option choices, in particular Languages and Triple Science we will be mixing the two halves. Students will stay in the same form group, but may now be on the 'other half' of the year group when allocated a class for Maths, Science, English, Languages, PSHCE or Physical Education.

As there are four form groups on the 'x' half there are five teaching groups in Maths, English, Science and Physical Education, whereas there are only three forms on the 'y' half so only four teaching groups in Maths, English, Science and Physical Education.

English at GCSE is taught in mixed ability groups so the class code that a student has on their timetable is not relevant. However, in Maths, Science and Physical Education where there is setting, staff have spent time ensuring that all students are in a similar ability set as previously.

For example a student may have been in set 2 Maths on the 'y' half and may now be set 3 Maths in the 'x' half as there are more groups on that half of the year group but these sets are of equivalent ability.

If, when your child gets their Timetable, you have any questions please do contact me. Also a reminder that the summer term is when students can request to swap subjects, if once they have started the subject they realise it is not what they thought it was. This I will try to accommodate but it is dependent on spaces being available in other classes and it fitting within the blockings.

I would also like to highlight the following as your child embarks on their Key Stage 4 phase of Education.

- **Attendance:** Overall attendance for this year group is good, but it is important as a parent to understand that there is a correlation between attendance and outcomes. Research shows that students who are receiving face to face teaching achieve better outcomes, as they will hear the explanations, be able to ask questions, and will be up to date with the work being covered. We recognise that students may miss a few days due to illness but our aim, and your child's aim should be to have attendance over 96%. (equates to 8 days off a year)
- **Organisation:** As parents you can help your child to ensure that they keep themselves and their work organised. In some cases this may be in paper files, in files on a google classroom, or their own area. Checking the school calendar, checking google classrooms for any key dates or assessments.
- **Home learning:** At GCSE there is no set Home Learning Timetable. Instead, staff will set work in relation to the topics being set and the stage they are at with that topic. It is essential that all home learning is completed as it will be relevant to the subject that your child is studying.





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- **Retrieval Practice:** Low stakes, short regular testing of topics learnt. Research shows that students have a better recall of content they are studying if they are tested on it after studying it. Not straightaway but after a delay of a week or so. Staff in school will use this throughout the courses, but students themselves can do this at home as well to help recall. If your child can see this as a helpful tool to help recall at the end of Year 11, rather than a stressful one, it is going to help their overall outcomes.
- **Relaxation Time:** It is very important that during your child's GCSE years they set aside time for themselves. Whether that be relaxing by playing sport, being involved in extra-curricular activities, watching TV, or seeing friends. Ensuring they keep healthy, by eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep and relaxation, will help them have a better mental, physical, social and emotional health.
- **Parental Engagement:** It is still important that parents keep involved in their child's education. Helping your child organise themselves, asking how subjects are going, asking your child to talk about what they are learning. All of this will give you an idea of how your child is coping and learning. If you have a concern please do contact either your child's form tutor, Head of Year or subject teacher.

Finally, during the course of the summer term the pastoral oversight of your child will pass from Mr Gray (Head of Key Stage 3) to Miss Moody (Head of Key Stage 4). Currently all form tutors will be staying with their forms into Year 10, and Mr Langley will continue as Head of Year.

There will be an information evening in September, at the start of your child's Year 10, which I would hope all parents/carers will be able to attend to find out more information about your child's Key Stage 4 experience.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Y Powdrell
Deputy Headteacher

