



Thornhill Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Dear parents/ carers,

13th January 2022

We are very pleased with how well our Year 9 students conducted themselves in their class assessments at the end of last term. With a disrupted Key Stage 3, with limited opportunities for formalised assessments, they really rose to the challenge and showed their growing maturity. We look forward to writing to you again soon with details of your son/daughters' individual progress and to share future opportunities to discuss this with teaching staff.

Year 9 is an important year as students begin to consider their future and look towards choosing their options subjects for Key Stage 4 and GCSE qualifications. As well as new subjects, Key Stage 4 presents many changes such as new teaching groups and different styles of learning as our students' learning skills develop. There will be an opportunity to discuss progress and future options with teachers on Tuesday 8th March and more information will follow before half term.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that as of Monday 17th we are adjusting some of our teaching groups to reflect the mixed ability approach to learning at Key Stage 4. As a diverse and inclusive school, we feel this will help all students with their transition as well as continuing to develop the academic and learning behaviours which support them in making good progress and good choices for their future.

Core subjects will remain in traditional academic ability sets and will be adjusted by departments based upon ongoing assessments. Music, ICT, Design Technology, PE and Guidance will continue to be taught in mixed ability groupings. All other subjects will now be grouped with a mixed ability approach and whilst students' timetable and curriculum won't change their teachers and class groupings for these subjects will. Teachers will use the recently updated assessment information to ensure that your son/daughter receives the right scaffolding, support and challenge to achieve their very best. Students will be prepared for this change through tutor groups and lessons, with new timetables being issued on Monday 17th.

Should you have any questions regarding these changes or would like to discuss this in more detail, please feel free to contact me via email at cherry.crooks@consilium-at.com.

Yours sincerely

C. Crooks

Mrs C Crooks