

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, over the last year, there have been significant changes in education and assessment in schools. This has included developing further the delivery of our curriculum to ensure a rich approach where teaching/learning is accessible to all children and does not place a ceiling on attainment. It is essential every child is supported and challenged to achieve their best. To ensure consistency in teaching, we have decided in English to move away from the structure of 'setting' in Years 7, 8 and 9 and follow a more mixed ability format. Students will still be placed in bands as per the whole school policy but within those bands classes have been reset so that they are more fluid and mixed. As a result, you should expect your child to be in a different English class next year but this is not a reflection of their end of year testing. This decision has been taken following rigorous analysis of progress data and research into how to plan for all children to achieve their full potential.

Research has shown that teaching groups with a more mixed ability approach helps to reduce any under achievement. It also ensures that there are the same opportunities for all children across the year groups. Research also suggests that schools and teachers can negatively influence how children perceive themselves as learners, their 'mind-set'. Children who see intelligence as something that is given (fixed mind-set) tend not to do as well as children who see intelligence as something that can be developed as a result of hard work and perseverance (growth mind-set). Setting by ability can confirm in children that their intelligence is fixed, and this can reduce the progress they make.

We believe that this move will positively impact on the learners in English. We will continue to cater for the individual learning needs of each child by using flexible grouping within classes. This will ensure children of all abilities are challenged and supported where needed.

It is our intention to move to this new arrangement from September 2019. We will, of course, continue to monitor the impact on learning. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the English Department by phone or email.

Yours faithfully,

Miss S Pugh

Deputy Head of English