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18th December 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Science Set Changes - Years 7 and 8

Since September 2018, students in Years 7 and 8 have been taught in mixed ability groups while we got to know individual student's abilities, and their strengths and weaknesses within Science.

All classes have now completed four topics in this subject, as well as a baseline test of knowledge from Years 3 - 6, meaning that we have been able to assess their ability to answer both simple fact recall questions and more complicated application questions. With this in mind, we have taken the decision to move the students into sets, starting straight after Christmas.

These sets will be based upon the ability of the student, and should mean that higher sets are able to cover topics in greater detail at a greater pace. The lower sets will have smaller numbers of students in them, to allow for more support from teachers and LSAs, as well as letting the lessons move at a more appropriate pace, whilst allowing students time to process information and make progress. The set that a student is in does not affect the information they are taught, or the assessments they take in Years 7 or 8, nor will it affect their opportunities moving forward to study GCSE Science from Year 9.

The settings within Science is always fluid. Students move up and down sets quite often, based on their attainment. If it becomes apparent that a student is struggling in a higher set, we usually take the steps to move them to an environment that will provide more support. Likewise, if a student is excelling in the set they are in and they are clearly making more progress than their peers in the same set, or some in the set above, we will often take the steps to move that student up. Reviews of each year's sets are taken approximately once every half term, to ensure students are in the most appropriate environment to make progress, and class sizes are conducive to appropriately supporting our students.

Students will be issued with new timetables before the end of term that contain the information regarding the set they are in, and changes to class teachers and rooms, so that they are fully prepared to start the new term.

If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Hinson
Assistant Principal
Curriculum Leader - Science