

Year 7

The year group is divided into two equal halves, called bands. The only difference between them is that one band studies French and the other German.

Students will spend approximately half their time in 'mixed ability' groups and half grouped in sets by prior attainment within their bands. We use SATs result and information from primary school teachers to establish these sets but are aware that this is not an exact science. We therefore consider re-grouping students within their band once we have a more comprehensive set of assessment data.

Year 8

The curriculum is broadly the same as year 7. Students no longer have a dedicated library lesson once per fortnight but retain the same total number of English lessons.

We want to boost students' confidence in their language learning so that they make more rapid progress and feel more secure in selecting a language to study to GCSE level. The majority of students will therefore continue studying the one language that they studied in year 7 but for an additional hour per fortnight. Some students will start a second language but will have less curriculum time for each.

In the spring term of Year 8 students will be guided through making their curriculum choices for the GCSEs and/or vocational courses that they will study over years 9, 10 and 11. Information will be available for parents, along with an information evening and a parents' evening in which options are discussed with their children's teachers.

Year 9

Students are completely re-grouped by prior attainment in maths, moving from 2 bands of 3 groups to 7 groups across the whole cohort. At this stage, no decision has been made regarding the tier of maths GCSE entries. This will be finalised in Year 11.

Science groups are a little more mixed in year 9, with English, citizenship and religion & world views (RWV) being taught in science groups. PE has the same curriculum time as in years 7 and 8, and PSD continues to be taught in tutor groups.

Option subjects begin for GCSE and vocational courses.

Year 10

The curriculum is similar to Year 9, except English is taught in separate groups to science. Science and English classes may therefore be allocated differently to Year 9.

Year 11

The curriculum is very similar to year 10.