



Great Marlow School

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EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Mr K Ford

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mr G Pendlebury

Monday 17th June 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer

As you will be aware students in Year 9 core subjects (English, Maths and Science) are currently taught in one of 3 teaching groups within their houses.

Year 9 current (2023/ 24) core subject structure and information:

- **English** - All students in year 9 are taught in mixed ability teaching groups within their houses and all students follow the same curriculum.
- **Mathematics** - Currently in year 9 each house has 3 teaching groups. There are 2 equal top sets which will appear as groups 1 or 2 on the timetable and these students are following a curriculum with the expectation that they could sit the higher GCSE paper in June 2026.
- **Science** - Students placed in Year 9 set 1 are studying the GCSE separate science course. This means students would obtain 3 GCSEs in science across the 3 science disciplines if they were to sit these examinations in June 2026. Students placed in sets 2 and 3 in Year 9 science are in a *mixed ability* combined science trilogy set.

As students move into Year 10 in September 2024, they will still be taught within their houses in the core subjects but will be taught in sets within these houses. There are normally 3 sets in each house, but for the academic year 2024/ 2025 both Science and Maths will have 4 teaching groups in each house. Each house comprises approximately 83 students, so this will mean that in these 2 subject areas there will be smaller groups sizes.

English will remain with 3 teaching groups in each house (these will be set on ability for Year 10). For any information regarding English please contact Miss R Timon, Head of English rtimon@gms.bucks.sch.uk

In **Science** the set changes will be implemented at the start of Year 10. In each house there will be a group that is focused on the separate sciences (where students receive an individual grade for Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and 3 equal mixed ability groups which will be studying towards the Science Trilogy (double award) qualification.

For further information regarding Science please contact either Mrs V Bennett (current Head of Science) vbennett@gms.bucks.sch.uk or Mrs L Brassington (KS4/ GCSE co-ordinator) lbrassington@gms.bucks.sch.uk

However, in **Maths** these set changes will take effect from today. Students have been continually assessed throughout the academic year and it is this assessed data along with input from their current classroom teacher that has determined the set each student will go into.

- **Sets 1 and 2** in each house will be following a curriculum that will allow students to access the higher paper and **sets 3 and 4** will follow a curriculum focused on achieving success on the foundation paper.
- Movement between the sets may happen over the next 5 weeks but can also happen at any point over the next 2 academic years. Any movement will be based on assessment data and teacher input and can

take place between papers – foundation to higher/ higher to foundation but can also take place between sets 1 and 2 and sets 3 and 4.

Where staffing makes it possible, students in Year 9 Maths will, for the remainder of the academic year, be taught by the teacher that will teach them in Year 10. (This will be clearly communicated to students once the timetable for the next academic year has been confirmed).

If you would like further information regarding the changes within Maths for the remainder of this academic year and into Year 10, please contact Mrs Guy, Head of Mathematics at Great Marlow School – mguy@gms.bucks.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mr G Pendlebury
Head of School