



October 2014

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Dear Parents/Carers

Curriculum Changes in 2015

As you may have seen in the news there are many changes due to affect our education system. These will impact on all year groups at Edgbarrow, starting in September 2015. I would like to outline the changes and how we will be adjusting school systems to support the students.

New GCSEs

From September 2015 Maths and English will follow new GCSEs that will be graded from 1 to 9 with 9 being the top grade. I attach a document from OFQUAL that gives a guide as to how these new grades can be compared with the old A-G system. Other subject areas will move to the new GCSEs starting in either 2016 or 2017 dependant on government guidelines. Parents and students will be given further information regarding this during the Year 9 options process. Students currently in Year 10 and 11 are not affected.

A-levels

From September 2015 A-levels are also being reformed with the AS qualification no longer forming part of the full A-level. This is a phased programme with some A-levels affected in 2015 and all A-levels moving to the new system by 2017. Grades will continue to be A-E but the content of some courses is changing. Parents and students will be given further information regarding this during the Year 11 options process. Students currently in the Sixth Form are not affected.

Key Stage 3

The old National Curriculum is no longer statutory and schools have been given greater flexibility over what and how to deliver. For the current academic year we will be broadly sticking to the old National Curriculum but, from September 2015, departments will be adjusting their KS3 content to prepare students for the new GCSEs. We are also looking to adapt our tracking and assessment system to move it in line with the 1-9 system used at GCSE and are consulting on this at the moment. Students in KS3 may notice pilot projects being run by departments as we get ready for the switch next year. We will hold an information evening for parents of Years 7 and 8 in the spring term to share the changes in greater detail. Students currently in Year 9 will not be affected by Key Stage 3 changes.



Edgbarrow School is keen to ensure that we develop a curriculum that meets the needs of our specific learners. We will be doing our best to ensure that students are not only well prepared to succeed in any new qualification but also to ensure that the curriculum offered is relevant and supports our students' futures.

Changing all three Key Stages is clearly a big undertaking, so to remain informed you may wish to make a note of these key dates:

20th November – Sixth Form Open Evening (Year 11s)

15th January – Year 9 Options Evening

28th January – Key Stage 3 Curriculum Evening (Years 7 and 8)

We will write to you prior to each event to give further details. Those interested in further reading regarding curriculum change can find up-to-date information by visiting the OFQUAL website: <http://ofqual.gov.uk/qualifications-and-assessments/qualification-reform/>

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Matthews
Deputy Headteacher