



14 July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Class Grouping Information

As the timetable for September is almost complete, students will soon begin to learn which groups they will be in next year from their current teachers and via their timetable on the Arbor Portal. These will, however, not be fully finalised until September.

In Years 10 and 11, option subjects are allocated based on the combinations chosen and where they fit together, rather than groups being organised based on ability, for example. In the core subjects, however, the students are organised in specific groupings.

Groups in Years 7, 8 and 9 are predominantly mixed ability. Therefore, the number on the class name is simply an organisation feature, rather than an indication of ability level. We do not issue target grades in Key Stage 3. This gives all students the opportunity for a fresh start and a chance to show what they are capable of, without any perceived limits being placed on their potential.

In each subject area, teaching and support staff have access to as much information as possible about each student, to help them to meet the needs of each individual within their care.

Please find below more detailed information regarding the groupings in each year group, so you can better understand your child's timetable.

If you have any queries with regards to your child's groups, please contact the relevant Faculty Leader in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Moat

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Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

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Faculty Area	KS3	KS4
English	Years 7, 8 & 9: Students will be allocated a group, 1-5. Students will be mixed within these groups. The number of the group is not an indication of academic ability or hierarchical. All students access the same curriculum; the same level of academic challenge and appropriate support and are assessed for the same skills. We continuously review and track academic performance, peer interaction and pastoral profiles in order for us to meet the individual needs of every student in English. We will therefore adjust groupings and make changes throughout the year where appropriate.	In Year 10 & 11 there are 5 classes on each side of the year. Students in Year 11 in groups 1 and 2 are of higher ability. Groups 3, 4 and 5 are of a similar academic profile. Year 10 there are 5 classes on each side of the year. Groups 1, 2 and 3 are of higher ability. Groups 4 and 5 are of a similar academic profile. Students will follow the same curriculum as every other student and take the same assessments. There is no tiering in the English GCSE qualification, therefore every student is taught to access the same materials and are taught to achieve their full potential. We continuously review and track academic performance, peer interaction and pastoral profiles in order for us to meet the individual needs of every student in English. We will therefore adjust groupings and make changes throughout the year where appropriate.
Maths	In Years 7 and 8, each half of the year has the following 5 groups: 2 equal higher ability groups and 3 equal mixed ability groups. Students are placed in these groups based on a combination of assessment results and teacher judgement. In Year 9, the year is grouped by ability as follows: Groups 1-4 are working on Higher level GCSE content. Group 5 is a smaller group and is working on Foundation level GCSE content.	In Year 10, the year is grouped by ability as follows: Groups 1-3 are working on Higher level GCSE content. Group 4 are working on Higher/Foundation content. Group 5 is a smaller group and is working on Foundation level GCSE content. In Year 11 the year is grouped by ability as follows: Groups 1-3 are working towards the Higher GCSE exam. Groups 4-5 are working on Foundation level GCSE content.
Science	In Year 7 and 8, students are in the same groups for Maths and Science. On each side of the year group, there are two equivalent higher ability groups (1, 2), with three equivalent middle groups (3, 4 & 5). In Year 9, students are in different groups from maths however they are grouped based on science data. On each side of the year group, there are two equivalent higher ability groups (1, 2), with three equivalent middle groups (3, 4 & 5).	All students are studying for GCSEs in Science. Students either follow the Triple Science or Combined Science (Trilogy) route. Students are grouped in Year 10 based on their science pathway. They stay in these groups for two years, but some students may be moved for individual reasons. In Year 10 & 11, Triple Science – all groups in the Right and Left populations are equivalent. In Combined Science – all groups on the Right and Left populations are equivalent. In Year 11 we may group students into Higher and

		Foundation classes to ensure that students receive the best preparation for their tier of entry.
Humanities	In Years 7, 8 & 9 students are taught in their English groups for Geography, History and RS. Students are taught in mixed ability groups.	In Years 10 & 11 , GCSE students are taught in mixed ability groups for History and Geography dependent on their option choices and in their English groups for RS.
MFL (French, German and Spanish)	In Year 7, all students study French, with half doing Spanish and the other half doing German as a second foreign language. In Year 7, 8 and 9 French, classes follow the groupings of English and humanities. In the second language, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be in mixed ability groups, in the language to which they have been allocated – either Spanish or German.	In Year 10 & 11 , GCSE students are taught in mixed ability groups dependent upon their option blocks.
Art, Computing, Design, Food & Nutrition, Drama, Music and PE	In Years 7 to 9 , these subjects are taught in mixed ability groupings, in slightly smaller classes to support the practical nature of the work.	These subjects are all options choices in Years 10 & 11 and groups depend upon the combination of options choices taken, rather than academic ability.