Dear Parent/Carer 15th December 2014

**Year 8 target setting, assessment and setting**

In direct response to the Ofsted feedback we have been working hard to ensure that there is a clear spotlight on student attainment and progress. This has meant that some of our systems have had to change to support all our students in achieving their potential and making good progress.

1. **Target setting**

Your child now has aspirational targets based on the trajectory they should achieve from KS2 to KS4 to make good progress. Their targets should be on their individual subject books and in their planners.

1. **Regular assessment**

There are now 4 formal assessment points throughout the year so that we can track progress effectively and intervene where necessary to ensure students are on track to achieve. These will be followed by reports to parents so that you can see the progress your child is making. In addition, departments will be conducting more regular informal assessments which will enable them to plan more effectively for progress. The formal assessment dates are in your School Handbook.  If you are new to the school and do not have one please let us know. It is also on the website.

1. **Academic setting**

We have already changed student grouping in Years 9 and 10 to ensure that students are in the right set to make good progress. **We are now undertaking a set review in Year 8 which will be effective from Monday 5th January 2015.** Sets in Y8 were mixed to some extent but will now be strictly ordered academic sets. From January students will be grouped according to KS2 scores in Maths and English, taking into account progress made in Years 7 & 8 to ensure that we are able to focus more closely on progress and attainment. New set structures are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Previous Model** | | Academic sets except  **Parallel sets** | **New Model** | | Academic sets in 2 bands  B (upper) & T (lower) |
| B1 |  | B1 |  |
| **B2** | **T1** | B2 |  |
| B3 |  | B3 |  |
|  | T2 |  | T1 |
|  | T3 |  | T2 |
|  |  |  | T3 |

As a result of the new groupings, your child may have changed their set or teacher. In some cases it may seem that there has been a big change in set but in reality this will usually be because sets were previously mixed. Please be reassured that any set change has been carefully thought out so that your child is now correctly placed with the right amount of support and challenge to meet their learning needs.

1. **Setting reviews**

Students will continue to be assessed at regular intervals throughout the year, and there will be 2 formal setting review points in November and March where students may move up or down a set within their band, depending on their progress and attainment. However, any change in band will need to be agreed by both English and Maths departments. There will also be scope for individual movement throughout the year, according to need.

1. **Timetable changes**

In addition to set changes, all Year 8 students will now benefit from 2 literacy focus lessons which will take the place of PSHE and one drama lesson on their timetable. This change has been implemented in direct response to the OFSTED feedback linked to literacy levels impacting on overall student achievement and progress.

Your child will receive their new timetable on Friday, which will be effective from 5th January 2015. It is important that all students settle quickly into their new teaching groups and focus on making as much progress over the remaining two terms as possible. Please take some time over the Christmas holiday to familiarise yourself and your child with the changes to their timetable. Should you have any queries over the new arrangements, please contact any member of the school Senior Leadership Team.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Year 8 students and their families a Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing all of our students again in 2015 after a restful holiday.

Yours faithfully



B Scott-Herron

Headteacher