



JMA/MEL

19 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Changes to teaching groups**

We want to inform you about an important change that we are implementing in school to better meet the needs of our students in the classroom. After careful consideration, we have decided to introduce a setting system that will allow us to create more tailored learning environments for our students.

The purpose of this change is to ensure that each student receives instruction and support that aligns with their individual learning needs and abilities. By grouping students with similar academic levels together, we can provide targeted instruction and differentiation to meet their specific needs, which will result in a more effective and personalised learning experience for all of our students.

The setting system will involve reorganising the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects (English, maths, science, Spanish, history and geography) based on academic performance and progress. The remaining subjects (design/art, sport, IT, music and performing arts) will continue to be mixed ability. RE and PSHE lessons will be taught in the history and geography groups.

This is similar to the setting system we use at Key Stage 4.

Our experienced and dedicated teachers will utilise ongoing assessments, student performance data, and their professional expertise to determine appropriate class placements. This will enable them to better address the varying learning needs, pace, and styles of our students.

The subject sets will not affect tutor groups and these will remain mostly unchanged for next year.

We believe that setting will provide several benefits, including:

- **Differentiated Instruction:** Students will receive instruction that is tailored to their specific level of knowledge, skills, and understanding. This will allow teachers to challenge advanced learners, provide additional support to those who may require it, and ensure that each student is appropriately engaged in their learning.

- **Improved Peer Collaboration:** By grouping students with similar academic abilities, it will be easier for them to collaborate and work together effectively. This will facilitate meaningful discussions, group projects, and peer support, fostering a positive and cooperative learning environment.
- **Increased Student Confidence:** Students will have the opportunity to engage with content at a level that matches their abilities, which can boost their confidence and motivation. They will experience success more consistently, leading to a greater sense of accomplishment and a willingness to take on new challenges.

We understand that you may have questions or concerns about the change to groups. We want to assure you that this change is aimed at providing the best possible learning experience for your child. Our teachers will continue to monitor progress, offer guidance, and provide individualised attention to ensure that each student receives the support they need to succeed. Your child will receive their new timetable in September. If they have any subject-specific queries about the group that they are in, please contact the relevant faculty director.

If you have more general queries about the data and assessments which have been used, please contact Simon Curzon, Assistant Principal, on [simon.curzon@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:simon.curzon@hartschool.org.uk).

We appreciate your understanding and support as we implement this change. Our goal is to create an inclusive and academically stimulating environment where all students can thrive and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your ongoing support with your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Mahon  
Vice Principal - Curriculum and Standards