



CKE/SPO
6 September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Teaching Groups 2019-20

We are pleased to share with you new developments in teaching and learning beginning this September.

I am sure that you realise we are constantly reflecting and reviewing what we do in the classroom and how groups are organised to make sure we deliver the very best educational experience for your child. Following a period of review prior to the end of last term and during the summer, we have made a decision about how we approach learning and how we organise student groups, so that we meet the learning needs of all children in our school, rather than falling into the risk of complacency and simply replicating the same arrangements each year.

At the earliest opportunity, therefore, and following much consideration, there have been a number of changes to tutor groups and teaching groups for students.

The school, as well as our students, are judged by academic outcomes and therefore any decision we make is taken to ensure the very best outcomes for the children. Our academic performance improved considerably this year but for our current students we want to do even better. We believe any changes we have made to tutor and teaching groups will achieve this. The changes do not affect all students in the school.

Summary of changes

- **Year 7** No change. All students, as previously, are taught in tutor groups.
- **Year 8** Changes to tutor and teaching groups. Students taught in tutor groups for the majority of their lessons.
- **Year 9** Changes to tutor and teaching groups. No change to option groups. Students taught in their tutor groups in core subjects.
- **Year 10** No changes.
- **Year 11** No changes.



- **Where there are changes, the students will not be divided into sets based purely on ability. Each group will have a range of children with differing academic profiles. This is to avoid labelling our students. All children have talents and abilities and it is our role to harness them and ensure they succeed, irrespective of ability. These groups will be named after their form tutor.**
- **Teaching staff have been specifically trained to teach students of all abilities, so that the educational needs of your child are met.**
- **Students who are more able will still be able to do separate sciences and higher tier GCSE examinations.**
- **Your child will be set ambitious targets based on their Key Stage 2 starting point. These targets will now be set each year and will be personalised. If your child meets or exceeds these targets, their performance will place them in the top 20% of all students in the country.**
- **We will send you a NEW REPORT which will be clearer than previous reports, providing you with more relevant, easier to understand information about your child's progress.**
- **We will, as we do normally, review every child's progress at the end of each assessment. There will be three assessments for students in Years 7-10 (four for Year 11) each year, one at the end of each term. Most assessments will take place in the classroom and will be based on the learning that has taken place in that term.**

We believe that the way in which we now organise learning will give your child both the best learning experience and best opportunity to succeed in their examinations.

We know that you may have questions about these changes. We are, therefore, organising an informal drop-in for parents and carers on Wednesday 18 September from 6.00-7.00 pm in the school hall, where you will be able to meet members of the school's leadership team.

I thank you for your continued support and look forward to your child enjoying school life and excelling at The Hart School.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Keen
Principal