

July 2021



Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parent/Carer

RE-GROUPING OF YEAR 7 ENGLISH CLASSES FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

We have been extremely impressed with the quality of work produced in all our year 7 English classes and the positive attitudes displayed towards learning in these mixed ability learning groups. Since September, we have developed a detailed understanding of our year 7 students' English skills and ability as well as their individual learning needs. We are therefore in a position to further refine the balance of all groups in terms of ability, gender and attitudes towards learning to create new year 8 broadly mixed ability groups. Pupils will be notified of their new English group before the end of Term 6 and the changes will come into effect at the start of the new academic year in September.

In Ralph Allen we firmly believe in the principle of inclusion, and we differentiate task and outcomes carefully to ensure every child is both challenged and supported to produce their personal best. Recent educational research has also highlighted the many benefits of mixed ability teaching with classes making sustained progress due to increased levels of self-esteem and the potential for students to learn from each other. We currently continue to group by ability in years 9-11 and expect this model to continue depending on other curriculum demands that may arise in the future.

We would like to reassure you that our groupings are not permanently fixed and that it is department policy to review groups on a regular basis to ensure your child is motivated, challenged and making sustained progress. We have already planned an initial review of these groups at the end of their first unit of work in the middle of October. There will be no changes to the groups until this time.

We hope your child continues to enjoy English as much as we enjoy teaching them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries at l.clintworth@ralphallenschool.com

Yours faithfully

Laura Clintworth

Deputy Curriculum Leader English

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