

July 2021



Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parent/Carer

RE-GROUPING OF YEAR 8 ENGLISH CLASSES INTO YEAR 9 CLASSES FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

We have been extremely impressed with the quality of work produced in all our year 8 English classes and the positive attitudes towards learning displayed in these mixed ability groups. In year 9 we reorganise the classes into broad ability groups in order to teach them the skills they require to access the GCSE curriculum.

As always, our aim is to ensure that each child is placed in the ability group designed to enable them to make the best possible progress. In order to achieve this successfully, we have invested a considerable amount of time evaluating a wide variety of data about the progress of your child in English. This includes information about your child's prior attainment, current attainment, and possible attainment grades in the future. Using this information, and additional comments from English teaching staff, we have now grouped all pupils into broadly banded sets according to their ability.

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. We currently continue to group by ability in years 10-11 and expect this model to continue depending on other curriculum demands that may arise in the future.

Pupils have been re-grouped in the following ways:

- 4 parallel upper ability groups: P1a, P1b and Q1a, Q1b. These groups will be targeting Grade 6 and above by the time the students take their GCSEs in year 11. These groups will have an upper limit of 33 pupils.
- 4 parallel middle ability groups: P2a, P2b and Q2a, Q2b. These groups will be targeting Grade 4/5 AND ABOVE by the time the students take their GCSEs in year 11. These groups are more likely to have an upper limit of 26 to tailor support.

Pupils will be notified of their new group by their current English teacher and will see this on their individual timetables when they receive them. These changes will take place at the start of the new academic year in September.

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 appropriately placed. 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.

If you have any urgent concerns which you would like to discuss before we start back in September, please email me c.clintworth@ralphallenschool.com before the end of term.

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

Yours faithfully

Laura Clintworth

Deputy Curriculum Leader English

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