

July 2021



Ralph Allen School

Dear Parent/Carer

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Review of Year 9 English Classes for September 2021

As you may be aware, we now carry the same setting model from year 9 into year 10 to provide continuity for pupils and to enable us to make a good start on key aspects of the GCSE course. Our model incorporates four broadly banded upper ability groups and four broadly banded middle ability groups. We have found this model to be very successful in securing high levels of achievement for all our students.

Our aim is to ensure that each child is placed in a group designed to enable them to make the best possible progress. In order to achieve this successfully, we have undertaken a rigorous review of the work of our year 9 pupils and have evaluated a wide variety of data about the progress of your child in English to ensure that they are well placed as they move into year 10. This includes information about your child's prior attainment, current attainment, and possible attainment levels in the future. As a result, we have made a small number of changes to the groups for September and have informed the relevant pupils and parents.

This is a useful point in the academic year for us to remind you of the structure of the groups in year 10 and for you to see clearly the grades that each group will be targeting as they prepare for GCSE.

Year 10 Groupings September 2021:

- 4 parallel upper ability groups which, if students perform as expected, and maintain high levels of commitment and effort, are targeting Grades 6 – 8/9 in their final exams.
- 4 parallel middle ability groups which, if students perform as expected, and maintain high levels of commitment and effort, and depending on progress and performance over the course of the 2 years, are targeting grades 6 – 3/4 in their final exams.
- GCSE English Language and Literature is un-tiered and allows all students to access Grades 1- 9.

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 that your son/daughter is appropriately placed. We have already planned to review year 10 groupings at the end of the first unit of work in November so that we are able to examine your son/daughter's performance in the classroom alongside other prior attainment data. There will be no changes to the groups until this formal review.

Should you wish to support your child at home as they prepare for their GCSEs in English, it is helpful for you to know that we follow the Eduqas specifications for both English Language and English Literature.

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/>

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher should you require any further information. Alternatively, you may email me: c.smith@ralphallenschool.com

Yours faithfully,

C.J Smith

Ms C Smith
Head of English

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