



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

17th September 2018

Dear Parents

As you will be aware the school uses GCSE results as criteria for 6th form study. I am writing to you to bring to your attention prior to the year 11 parents evening on the 11th of October and the mock exams at the end of November. I would also like to inform you of circumstances that the school may reduce GCSE subjects taken by students to allow them to make the most progress possible in their studies.

Students require 54 points from their best 8 subjects to join the 6th form. This means a minimum of six grade 7 and two grade 6 GCSEs. Students must also gain a grade 6 in English (Literature or Language) and Mathematics. To study a particular subject at A-level students must gain a grade 7 in that subject at GCSE.

It is therefore vital for students wishing to study A-level subjects to keep in mind attainment in that subject as well as their achievement more generally. Their overall point score and Mathematics and English grades are just as important for entry into the 6th form as their achievement in a subject they wish to study further.

The majority of students are studying 10 GCSEs. Whilst this works for the majority it is not suitable for all. Therefore, to enable those at risk of falling behind in some subjects it is more suitable for some to take fewer GCSEs. This gives them a better chance at getting good grades that would allow them to progress to 6th form study.

This decision will be taken after the year 11 mock exams which students take from the 19th – 28th November. Students achieving lower than an average of a grade 6 in their mock exams will be considered for a reduction in GCSE options taken. The likely outcome in this circumstance is that students will stop studying one or more of their GCSE options. Since the aim is to allow students time to focus on their remaining subjects, it is worth pointing out that the discontinued subject may not be the one with poorest mock exam grade.

Within the sciences the majority of students are studying each science separately and will gain separate GCSE grades in biology, chemistry and physics. Students will need to gain a grade 6 in two out of three of their science subjects to continue studying science as separate GCSE options. To help students focus those that fail to gain a grade 6 in at least two sciences will study GCSE science and gain two GCSEs.

No student will move class as it is best that students are taught by subject specialists, however, their curriculum will be tailored for the GCSE science course. Please rest assured that all decisions made by the school in this matter will be taken in consultation with parents to ensure the best outcomes for your children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R J Langton
Headmaster

Mr M O Rendu
Head of Year 11

