

# **Sixth Form from 2017**

## **Information for Parents and Carers**

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# Changes

## Last year, this year, next year

### Outline the changes to

- A-levels
- GCSEs

### How this might affect

- Sixth Form options
  - Post-18 options

# Overview

## A-level changes

### From 2015

- AS and A-levels became separate qualifications
- ‘Linear’ – all/majority of exam assessment at the end of the course
- Happening in 3 stages – 2015, 2016 and 2017

### From next year

- **All** A-level qualifications will be linear

# Overview

## Level 3 vocational change

### From 2016

- Vocational subjects now have an exam element

# Overview

## GCSE changes

All GCSE's also moving to linear

### **2015**

Maths, English Literature and Language

### **2016**

A further 18 qualifications

### **2017**

A further 18 qualifications

# What does linear mean for our students?

Students will need to.....

**Learn and be examined in different ways**

(little and often, exam preparation and practice)

**Adapt their learning styles quickly**

(revision, recall, synthesizing information)

**Manage time very carefully**

(induction process, practical help, tutor, development)

We have to remember – students have not gone through school learning in this way

# Overview

## GCSE changes

Grading also changing

Maths, English Literature and Language will be graded 1-9, not A\*-G

*Officially we expect the equivalency to broadly be.....*

New grade	Rough equivalent
9	A**?
8	A*
7	A
6	Mid-high B
5	mid C, low B
4	low C
3 grade	re-take

# Overview

## GCSE changes

However, all the other subjects will still be graded A\*-G

### *Potential grade sheet*

Maths	9	
English Lit	8	
English Lang	7	
Geography	B	6
History	C	4-5
Drama	C	4-5
Science	C	4-5
Design Tech	D	3
German	E	2



# What will the entry guidelines look like?

## A-level Chemistry

### Entry Guidelines

GCSE Science & Additional Science grade B with a B in the Chemistry component or Chemistry GCSE Grade B, plus grade 5 Maths.

A mix of numbers and letters

## A-level Mathematics

### Entry Guidelines

GCSE Mathematics grade 6 or above.

Numbers only

## A-level French

### Entry Guidelines

GCSE French grade B or above.

Letters only

New grade	Rough equivalent
9	A**?
8	A*
7	A
6	Mid-high B
5	mid C, low B
4	low C

Generally the A-level standard will be a grade 5 – 6

4s in some subjects might be accepted

Generally the vocational standard will be a grade 5 - 4

# Why is this important to know?

- Each sixth form/college sets its own entry criteria
- You will likely see a mix of requirements for different centres
- It is fair to say, there is a lot of uncertainty
- We have looked at subjects individually to set ours, looking at national data and our own

# Sixth Form

## SBL A-levels

- All A-level courses SBL are **2 year** courses  
Internal exam at end of Year 12
- Vocational courses  
Still able to obtain a qualification after 1 year if
  - all the work has been done
  - the exam has been passed

### The local picture

Other colleges / sixth forms are tending to go the same way – but check with them if you are considering visiting

# A note on AS-level

AS-level	1 year	Separate qualifications
A-level	2 years	

## AS-level is worth -

- 40% of a full A-level on UCAS tariff points
- do not count towards A-level
- will be quoted on UCAS forms if taken
- will not count if taken at full A-level

Universities are making offers on 3 full A-levels

# A-level Changes

Literacy and numeracy are more demanding

Strengthened mathematical content in

Psychology, Biology, Physics, Chemistry

At SBL if studying a Science students we will  
strongly recommend to do either -

**1 other Science,  
Maths or  
Core Maths with it**

If studying Psychology or Computing, we will *recommend* -  
**either Maths or  
Core Maths with it**

# How will it affect post-18?

## Universities

They are not forthcoming with info

They are a law unto themselves

Offers on 3 not 4 A-levels

No disadvantage if there is no 4<sup>th</sup> AS-level

AAA is better than BBBB

Increasingly making lower offers for those with an A or A\* grade at EPQ

EPQ is less work and worth more points than AS-level

# How many A-levels/Level 3 courses do I take?

- Choose 3 - 4 subjects when applying
- You will choose 3 when starting 6<sup>th</sup> form

If you have an A+ average grade chat re 4<sup>th</sup> on interview  
B+ average grade EPQ, Core Maths

What is an EPQ?

One year  
Choose topic of own choice  
5000 word report or creation of  
an artefact

What is Core Maths?

Two years  
Pitched between GCSE A-level  
AS-level equivalency

Fewer teaching hours – 4 per fortnight

# How have we prepared?

All subject specifications were identified early for 2015 and 2016 and 2017

- Re-structured support
- Re-structured academic year
- Worked collaboratively with other teachers in the WMAT to share expertise and select the most appropriate courses
- Introduce regular assessment points to monitor and support student progress





# Wellsway Multi-Academy Trust



Working together



# Why?

- More courses available – currently over 45
- Better pathways
- Different specialisms



STEM



Creative Media

- Popular and easy
- Over 1000 students journeys per fortnight!

# Visiting other Open Evenings

Questions all parents/pupils should ask

What would I want to know for my children?

- Class sizes
- Results
- Support structures for students
- Destinations – where do students go?
- Expectations – behaviour, attendance, work
- Retention rates – how many complete the courses they start on?  
How many students stay in Year 12, or Year 13, or both?

# SBL Sixth Form Open Evening

Find out more on.....

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October

7 – 9 pm

# PPE Examinations (Mocks)

- **30<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October** (Maths)
- **28<sup>th</sup> November - 6<sup>th</sup> December** ( all subjects)
- **6<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> March** (all subjects)
- Revision/recap activities taking place across subjects (lead lectures in Science, for example)
- Revision guide containing information for all subjects will be available before half term

# GCSE Examinations

**28<sup>th</sup> April**

GCSE controlled assessment deadline

**15<sup>th</sup> May - 29<sup>th</sup> June**

GCSE examinations