



ABINGDON

From: Curriculum Director: Oliver Lomax

To all fifth year pupils and their parents

26 January 2018

Dear Fifth Year Pupil,

PREFERENCE FOR SIXTH FORM SUBJECTS

This letter outlines in brief, the process of choosing A level subjects for September 2018. More information can be found in the document entitled "The Sixth Form" which is available on the curriculum area of the school website (<http://www.abingdon.org.uk/curriculum/>).

Your task is to consider all the information, opinions and guidance available to you. This might come from your parents, your tutor, your subject teachers, the Director of University Applications (Mrs King) or the Head of Career Guidance (Mr Triff). If you have any queries about the suitability for you of any particular subject course, consult your teacher in that subject and/or the head of department concerned.

The most important consideration is that you choose subjects you are passionate about and wish to study further. You are much less likely to succeed in a subject that you are not interested in.

You need to express your preference for the *four* subjects you would like to study, and an additional fifth preference as a back up. You should base your choice on the assumption that you will be studying all four throughout the sixth form, for the whole two years. At the end of the lower sixth there is the opportunity to drop one of the subjects and continue with only three to A Level. Sixth form tutors will advise if they think this is appropriate. Our aim is to create the sixth form curriculum that is most suitable for each individual.

You may choose Economics as well as Business in the Lower Sixth. However, owing to the fact that there is a significant overlapping of topics that will be covered in these courses in the Upper Sixth, boys should not expect to carry on with both subjects after the Lower Sixth unless they are planning to continue with all four of their subjects. Additionally, it should be noted that some British universities do not regard Economics and Business as sufficiently distinct to count as two different A levels so will often refuse to consider candidates offering three A Levels including Economics and Business. Boys continuing with all four A Levels might expect to get university offers that will allow only one or the other of Economics and Business to count.

Note that we do not allow you to study both RS and Philosophy.

Further Mathematics counts as one choice, and is timetabled as one subject, but leads to two A levels, *Mathematics* and *Further Mathematics*.

A Level Physical Education will be on the list at this stage but it is likely that we will not be offering it in September. If you choose PE you should be fully prepared to take your fifth preference instead.

Any of the courses may be withdrawn if, for example, insufficient numbers of pupils choose a particular subject. At this stage we welcome preferences for any combination of subjects. When the timetable is constructed, however, there are always some pupils with subject combinations that are difficult to fit in. We will inform you as early as possible if this seems likely to be the case.

A Google form will shortly be sent to your school email address. This should be completed and submitted by Monday 5 February.

Yours sincerely

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