



From Curriculum Director: Oliver Lomax

25 January 2019

To all fifth year pupils and their parents

Dear Fifth Year Pupil,

### **PREFERENCE FOR SIXTH FORM SUBJECTS**

This letter outlines in brief, the process of choosing A level subjects for September 2019. 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 Taylor) 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 more likely to succeed in a subject that you are 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. Part way through the lower sixth there is the opportunity to drop one of the subjects and continue with only three to A Level. It is our experience that pupils often change their mind about the subjects they expect to continue to A level once they are a few weeks or months into the courses.

You may choose Economics as well as Business in the Lower Sixth. 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

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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.

Any of the courses may be withdrawn if, for example, insufficient numbers of pupils choose a particular subject.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 4 February.

Yours sincerely

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