



From Curriculum Director: Oliver Lomax

24 January 2020

To all fifth year pupils and their parents

Dear Fifth Year Pupil,

Back in November you let me know which subject you were tentatively considering studying in the sixth form. It is now time to let me know your firm preferences so that I can begin work on the timetable for September. 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 will be 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 select almost any combination of the subjects available and I will do my best to create a timetable that suits everyone. When the timetable is constructed, however, there are usually 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.

There are a few restrictions and things that are worth bearing in mind:

- 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 expect to get university offers that will allow only one or the other of Economics and Business to count.
- 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. You should not select both Maths and Further Maths.
- Any of the courses may be withdrawn if, for example, insufficient numbers of pupils choose a particular subject.

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A Google form will shortly be sent to your school email address. This should be completed and submitted by Monday 3 February. You may want to discuss your decision at the parents' evening on Tuesday 28 January.

More information can be found in the document entitled "The Sixth Form" which is available on the curriculum area of the school website, <https://www.abingdon.org.uk/academic/curriculum/>.

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