



ABINGDON

From the Curriculum Director: Mr Oliver Lomax

March 2020

TO THE PARENTS OF NEW BOYS ENTERING THE THIRD YEAR

Dear Parents,

PREFERENCE FOR THIRD YEAR SUBJECTS for September 2020

Welcome to Abingdon School. As Curriculum Director, I am the member of staff responsible for the timetable and subject choices. The purpose of this letter is to explain the curriculum which your son will be following in our third year. This curriculum contains both compulsory and optional subjects. On the basis of the information in this letter and discussions with your son, you need to choose your son's preferences for a modern foreign language and two optional subjects.

You will have been provided with a link to an online form in the welcome pack. Please complete this form by Thursday 7th May. If you need advice on your son's preferences, please discuss them with his teachers at his current school, email me at oliver.lomax@abingdon.org.uk.

If after completing the form, you change your mind about the optional subjects, please let me know of the change as soon as possible. I should mention that we have to reserve the right to abandon an optional subject if the numbers choosing it are so low as to make it impractical, and occasionally we cannot timetable unusual subject combinations. Such cases are rare, but that is why we call these 'preferences' rather than 'choices'.

I must stress, however, that there are various ways in which the curriculum can be modified to suit individual boys, provided that I am informed early enough about the potential problems. One characteristic of Abingdon is that the choice pattern is far more flexible, and tailored to individual pupils, than in many similar schools. It is quite possible for boys, for instance, to choose both classical languages, should they so wish.

To allow you to plot your son's route through to GCSE, even at this stage, the notes on the following pages indicate how this round of choices might affect the range of GCSE subjects that your son can study in the fourth and fifth years.

The 'Middle School Curriculum September 2020' document may be downloaded via a link from the Abingdon curriculum page (<http://www.abingdon.org.uk/curriculum>). Included in the document is detail on each Middle School subject. A summary is given below.

When your son reaches the Abingdon fourth year in the autumn of 2021, English, Mathematics, the sciences, a modern foreign language (French, German, Spanish or Mandarin Chinese) and Physical Education will all be compulsory. In addition, however, he will be able to choose three or four subjects to GCSE from a wide range, including Religious Studies, Geography, History, Art and Design, Design Technology, a second modern language if he began it in the third year (Mandarin Chinese, French, German or Spanish), Latin, Ancient History, Ancient Greek, Electronics, Computer Science, Music and Drama. These subjects can be pursued in many combinations.

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In general, we hope that you will appreciate that our middle school curriculum is designed to encourage breadth and versatility as well as to provide a suitably rigorous foundation for more advanced work.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Oliver Lomax – Curriculum Director

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