

L6th students wishing to drop their 4th subject - guidance for tutors

By now you may feel that continuing to study a 4th subject is counter-productive. You can confidently identify the one you want to drop and feel that lesson & homework time (approximately 15 hours per fortnight) could be better spent, for example,

- Strengthening your remaining three with more consolidation;
- Attending extension/support classes, doing research projects, entering essay competitions & reading;
- Engaging in the initial phases of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ);
- Broadening your skill set & CV in the Other Half (trickier this year);

In addition, for some of you studying four subjects has become an unmanageable workload. With this in mind, L6th students will be allowed to drop their fourth subject at **Christmas**.

No student should feel compelled to drop a subject at this stage. Continuing to study all four subjects for longer will broaden your education. It will also give you more experience, enabling a better informed decision to be made about which 3 A Levels you might eventually focus on. You should only drop a subject if you're not coping or there's danger of another subject being compromised.

The fourth subject can be dropped at a later point during the L6th, but only at the end of each half term. You are able to study all four subjects in the U6th if you wish and drop at any point during your final year. Universities that have made you offers on the basis of you studying four subjects need to be informed if you drop a subject.

Your tutor will make the final decision and will ask you to justify your request:

Is this the right subject to drop?	If it is not clear that this is your weakest subject, then relevant subject teachers need to be consulted to ensure you are not continuing with a subject that you are completely unsuited for.
Are you confident that the subject is not essential/desirable for university entrance?	You need to prove to your tutor that this subject is not needed for your proposed degree plans. If there is any doubt you should consult Mrs Taylor, Mrs Gibbard or Mr Taylor.
Do you have your parents' permission?	Parents' Evening is on 30 November & 1 December.
Have you shown your tutor a clear plan for how 15 hours/fortnight of gained time will be used?	You need to broadly quantify how you will use your gained time. A number of you will need to attend extra sessions that departments run or individual teachers have offered.

If the answer to any of these questions is no, then tutors will not give their permission for you to drop the subject at this stage.

Procedure:

1. You & your parents speak with all subject teachers at Parents' Evening (Monday 30 Nov & Tuesday 1 Dec).
2. Mr Lomax sends out a Google Form so you can identify a subject you wish to drop. (Wednesday 2 December).
3. Your tutor discusses your intentions with you.
4. Your tutor receives parental permission.
5. Mr Lomax amends your timetable (no earlier than Monday 7 December) & tells your tutor.
6. Your tutor tells you you are released from lessons.
7. You hand back your textbook, etc to the department & thank your teachers.

NJOD
November 2020