

11<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: English Groups 2018/19**

I am writing to explain a change in our policy for setting in Key Stage 3 English from next year. Students are currently taught in sets according to prior attainment and target grades; there are parallel sets on each side of the year (left and right). From September 2018, we will be delivering Year 8 English to mixed attainment groups. The groups will be carefully balanced so that each class has a wide range of prior attainment scores and target grades.

Our decision to make this change has been influenced by current practice in local junior schools and other secondary schools as well as consultation with Hampshire advisors for English. The shift to mixed grouping has also been influenced by the changes at GCSE level where there are no tiers of entry for English Language or English Literature papers. All students sit the same paper and have the same opportunity to perform at a high standard.

The rationale behind the change from sets to groups is to stretch and challenge every student to achieve their full potential. One highly effective way of challenging students is through high quality classroom discussion and students modelling answers for each other.

We view this change as an exciting opportunity for our students and will set high expectations for our students in terms of learning behaviours, standards of presentation and quality of written work. We will be very grateful for your continuing support in promoting these standards with your son/daughter.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Preston  
Head of English

REC17/18English