

Setting Policy 2021

Approach

The school always tries to ensure that students are placed within the correct set for their ability, where challenging work will help them make progress. At the end of each term, a few students' sets may change: parents will be informed via mail. At the end of the Summer Term, as there are always whole scale changes for the new school year, new set information will be shared via timetables in September. There may be unique circumstances where a child needs to be moved mid-term: this will be decided and arranged by their Progress Leader in collaboration with the Deputy Headteacher. When deciding which set is appropriate, the following are considered:

- Current working levels and grades (in particular, performance in English, Maths and Science)
- Subject tests and assessments
- National Test data
- Attitudes to Learning

The current curriculum structure means that each year group is divided into two groups (A side and B side), with approximately 120 students in each. Each year group has a mainstream ALN class along with a LDC class too. The sets referenced below are for each side of the year group.

In Key Stage Four students are set in core subjects only. For English, Welsh, Maths, Science and WBQ students will be in five sets based on ability. The P.E. department arrange students into four/five mixed ability classes.

In Key Stage Three, subjects are grouped into clusters. Each cluster may have different setting arrangements. These are explained below (mainstream only).

KS3 Curriculum Clusters

Year 7 and Year 8

| Cluster | Setting | Resetting Criteria |
|--|---|--|
| English, Geography, History, MFL, Religion & Ethics, Welsh | Four classes in A Side and B Side: one higher ability, two middle ability and one lower ability. One ALN class (Boost) | Initial setting is based on primary school data (inc. National Tests). There may be moves in October if any student is misplaced. Later set moves are based on classwork, assessments, exams and National Test data. The English Dept. oversees resetting. |
| Art, Performing Arts and PDS | Four mixed ability classes (taught in form groups) One ALN Class (Boost) | Mixed ability classes - no resetting required. |
| Science Maths IT | Students will be tested in September and placed into four sets following the half term break. One ALN class (Boost) | Initial setting is based on primary school data (inc. National Tests). There may be moves in October if any student is misplaced. Science and Maths decide the later setting based on performance data (as above) in both subjects. IT will also be consulted. National tests will also be considered. |
| PE | Four/five sets based on ability; some single gender groups, some mixed. | Classes are reviewed at the end of each term. |
| Technology | Six classes of mixed ability. | Mixed ability classes - no resetting required |

Year 9

| Cluster | Setting | Resetting Criteria |
|--|--|--|
| English, Geography, History, MFL, Religion & Ethics, Welsh | Four classes in A Side and B Side. Y8: one higher ability, two middle ability and one lower ability. Y9: students are set 1 to 4. One ALN class (Boost) | Setting is based on classwork, assessments, exams and National Test data. The English Dept. oversees resetting. |
| Art, Performing Arts and PDS | Four mixed ability classes (taught in form groups) One ALN Class (Boost) | Mixed ability classes - no resetting required |
| Science Maths IT | Students will be tested in September and placed into four sets One ALN class (Boost) | Science and Maths decide the later setting based on performance data (as above) in both subjects. IT will also be consulted. National tests will also be considered. |
| PE | Four/five sets based on ability; some single gender groups, some mixed. | Classes are reviewed at the end of each term. |
| Technology | Six classes of mixed ability. | Mixed ability classes - no resetting required |