

25<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear parents/carers

During the first two weeks of term we have looked carefully at the students' experience of teaching and learning and we have decided that we must:

- replace agency staff with permanent, experienced staff
- replace Spanish in Year 9 with French lessons as we have been unable, having tried very hard, to find a specialist teacher. However, we are going to introduce a foundation course (FCSE), which is externally accredited, in preparation for the GCSE French course
- take some students in Year 8 and Year 9 out of the study of a modern foreign language, as they have been identified as needing additional learning in English and mathematics. The focus of this will be English grammar, spelling and punctuation and applied mathematics.

This has created a new timetable for each student. For many, this is a minimal change, especially in KS4 and KS5. In KS3, it may mean changes to which period the lesson is taught in, or the day on which it is taught or the room in which it takes place.

Due care and attention has been used to ensure that this process is as smooth as it can be. The main advantage, to all students, is that they will experience more consistency in teaching and learning, as lessons will be planned and taught by permanent, experienced members of staff.

Yours faithfully,



**Amanda Phillips**  
Principal



**Helen Winn**  
Associate Principal