

WS/RNM/YR8

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Following recent changes to GCSE grades and specifications we are conducting a curriculum review in order to ensure we deliver the best possible coverage of the skills, knowledge and understanding your child needs to succeed in these new courses. We have researched a number of models and looked carefully at what has been most successful elsewhere and what we believe will best meet the needs of our students. I would like to take this opportunity to share our proposals with you and give you chance to comment or ask questions before we finalise any arrangements.

The new courses are challenging and are more content heavy than ever before and we need a curriculum model that allows students to develop as learners to meet the new challenges without losing any of the enjoyment and enrichment that should come from studying subjects they have chosen as options. To this end we are proposing a three year Key Stage Four, with students making their option choices in Year 8, to begin in Year 9. In addition to the core of English, English Literature, Maths (including GCSE Statistics) and Sciences they will have the choice of four options. This means the GCSE or Level Two equivalent we have previously offered for completion in Year 9 will no longer be an option. This model has served us well but the new GCSEs don't lend themselves as well to study in a year. Rather than continue to try and fit a new, more content heavy course into a single year we believe a longer period of study will be of more benefit to our students. Students will still finish Year Eleven with at least 10 GCSEs.

We are proposing that your child will make four option choices, three of which will be examined at the end of Year 11 and the fourth to be completed at the end of Year 10. We are also considering replacing the triple sciences option with the new Trilogy qualification which is equally demanding and content heavy as the separate sciences option. The Trilogy course covers all three sciences and provides a strong basis for further study at A Level and beyond. Many schools have already made this choice and we have considered very carefully the best option for our own students and believe this is the right one.

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We also plan to reintroduce GCSE Statistics into Maths as an additional GCSE. We have a great track record of delivering strong results in this area, last year 30% of our students achieved A\*-A and 79% achieved A\*-C. This will be examined at the end of Year 10.

Any significant curriculum changes like these proposals cannot be made lightly and we have spent a considerable amount of time weighing the different models and deciding on what best meets the needs of our own students. Your views are important and should you have any comments or questions please get in touch with me at school by email at [westermang@bostonspa.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:westermang@bostonspa.leeds.sch.uk) (please put Year 8 options in the subject) or if you would prefer you can leave letters or queries addressed to me at reception or post to me at Boston Spa Academy, Clifford Moor Road, Boston Spa, LS23 6RW. I also look forward to being able to present our new curriculum model to you at the Year 8 Parents and Options Evening on Thursday 1st February 2018.

Yours faithfully



GEORGIA WESTERMAN  
Vice Principal