



Moorside High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

28.06.21

Dear Parents / Carers

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and communication around the decision to regroup Year 8 for the final four weeks of this term. May I offer you my sincere apologies for the lack of information regarding Year 8 class changes in English.

We appreciate that this has caused some concern and we apologise that the rationale around making these changes was not communicated directly to you, and you received this information through your child. Children in all schools have faced challenges due to the pandemic and it is certainly not our intention to add to this situation.

Since taking over as Director of English, the English Faculty has worked hard to create a challenging and rigorous curriculum for all pupils; we are unashamedly academic and will continue to be so. I would like to reassure you that we want the very best outcomes for all pupils at Moorside High School.

There has been some miscommunication and confusion regarding the class numbers; class code does not signify ability and we hope to change class codes in the future so pupils do not perceive that they are restricted by their grouping. I would like to also reiterate that this is a trial in English. This is not a strategy which is being adopted across all subjects. If we do not see positive learning outcomes, we will again assess and review our grouping model which will include staff, parent/carer and student voice.

Pupils were allocated to the new groups based on an equal distribution of high, middle and lower ability pupils. Miss Drinkwater (Head of Year 8) then made a few changes for pastoral reasons.

The rationale behind trialling mixed grouping classes comes from the Education Endowment Foundation's research on setting, streaming and grouped attainment. It states: *"On average, pupils experiencing setting or streaming make slightly less progress than pupils taught in mixed attainment classes. The evidence suggests that setting and streaming has a very small negative impact for low and mid-range attaining learners, and a very small positive impact for higher attaining pupils. Overall the effects are small, and it appears that setting or streaming is not an effective way to raise attainment for most pupils."*

We do not feel that regrouping classes diminishes our pursuit for academic excellence but enhances learning opportunities.

Within English, pupils are all taught the same curriculum. This half-term pupils have been studying poetry with a focus on exploring identity and culture. We thought that this would be an excellent opportunity for pupils to share their different experiences of the world and enthuse and inspire one another after such a difficult year.

We thank you for your support in this decision to implement the trial. We look forward to sharing the outcome of this trial at the end of the next four weeks and together working towards the very best outcomes for all pupils at Moorside High School.

Yours Sincerely

Ms A Ghelichi

Miss C Smalley

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