



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

03 December 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to inform you of the School's decision to move from a two-year Key Stage Three to a three-year Key Stage Three. This will mean that your child will select their option subjects for GCSE and equivalent qualifications in Year Nine and not Year Eight, as has been done previously.

The reasons for this are vast and many but include:

- Our commitment to keeping the curriculum as broad and rich for as long as possible – giving our students the maximum chance of developing their interests and possible career pathways over three years rather than two
- The desire to move away from narrowing the curriculum too soon – students typically are with us for a year and a term before deciding on their option subjects. We felt that this was too soon a time between joining us from Key Stage Two and deciding their Key Stage Four.
- Our new Mastery Curriculum at Key Stage Three will continue to develop students' knowledge and skills across a wide range of areas, building a solid foundation for study in Key Stage Four
- The desire to develop our students as more than just a set of examination results – building transferrable skills through our School Virtues across the full suite of subjects we have at the school.

For students currently in Year Eight, they will continue in the same subject areas throughout Year Nine before choosing their option subjects to begin in Year Ten. Year Nine will still be used to develop those skills needed in Key Stage Four through our Mastery Curriculum.

I will be in touch again when your child is in Year Nine to discuss the options process but, in the meantime, if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Fox
Deputy Headteacher - Teaching and Learning
dfox@buckinghamschool.org

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at kbones@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.

