



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Y8 Lessons and Groupings

You may well have noticed a few differences in grouping arrangements and timetabled lessons from last year and perhaps been unsure of what those changes mean.

Understanding the group codes

In several different subject areas, students are no longer taught in their Learning Groups. The following will explain what the different codes mean on the timetable:

X = all students who are in Learning Groups 1-4

Y = all students who are in Learning Groups 5-8

A = all students in Learning Groups 1 and 2

B = all students in Learning Groups 3 and 4

C = all students in Learning Groups 5 and 6

D = all students in Learning Groups 7 and 8

What do the numbers for the groups mean?

The following departments introduce some form of grouping by prior attainment in Y8 and they make use of a variety of assessment information about your child in order to do so.

The number that follows the subject code indicates the teaching group for your child and whilst the same numbers are used (1-4), this can mean *something different* for each subject area. Please see the chart below for further information.

Subject	Groupings
Design Technology	The groups are taught in mixed ability DT classes
English & PSHE	The groups are taught in mixed ability classes
Maths	The groups are taught in ability sets 1 to 5
French/German	The groups are taught in mixed ability language classes, based on what language your child opted for as language choices are made before the end of Year 7
PE	The groups are taught in ability sets 1 to 4

The primary aim of any decision about grouping within the curriculum is to ensure that each student is placed in the group where they are likely to make the best possible progress. The groups will be reviewed regularly by departments to ensure that students are placed appropriately.



Modern Foreign Languages

All students now study French or German and some students will study both languages.

PE

Students will be taught in both mixed gender and single gender groups which are organised broadly by both prior levels of attainment and physical confidence. The aim is to have all students working in a group that allows them to make the most progress in skill development and confidence, maximising participation and opportunities for engagement.

Hopefully, this information will clarify some of the queries you may have had about your child's timetable and help you to understand what it means for them in practice. If you have any further **general questions** about the organisation of classes in Y8, please contact me at school using the email address below.

If you have any subject specific questions relating to the content of this letter, please direct them to the following Heads of Department:

Design Technology	Ms Whitehead	amy.whitehead@st-laurence.com
English	Mr Chadwick	james.chadwick@st-laurence.com
Maths	Mr Moody	james.moody@st-laurence.com
Languages	Mr Derwent	jonathan.derwent@st-laurence.com
PE	Mr Carter	jason.carter@st-laurence.com

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Rhodes
Director of Learning and Progress KS3
karen.rhodes@st-laurence.com

Mr C Dutton
Deputy Headteacher
Teaching and Learning
chris.dutton@st-laurence.com