



Letter to parents of all students in the new Year 11

Dear Parent,

Change to Year 11 Curriculum

I hope this letter finds you and your families all well at this time.

I am writing to update you on a change that we have made to the curriculum that your son will study with us this year.

Due to the ongoing COVID issue we are extremely conscious that our students have lost a lot of classroom learning time in the last few months and whilst we all did our best to deliver a high quality online learning package, we know that time spent with a teacher in a classroom cannot be beaten.

The current plan is that GCSE exams will be held as normal in summer 2021 so we need to do all we can to ensure that our students are as prepared as they can be for these exams in the time that remains. With this in mind we have been looking at our Year 11 Curriculum plans to ensure that we really maximise the time remaining so our students can achieve as highly as possible in the core subjects (English, Maths, Science) as well as their chosen GCSE Options.

With this in mind, I am writing to inform you that we have removed the Marketing and Enterprise course from the curriculum for Year 11 this year. This is a compulsory course that your son has been working on throughout Years 9 and 10. In order to finish the course there are two lengthy units of coursework that would have to be completed and an examination that would need to be sat either in January or in summer 2021. Therefore, in order to maximise the time in class to focus on all the other subjects we have decided to remove this subject from the curriculum.

Having discussed this at length with senior colleagues and with Ms Lyons, Head of Business Studies, our view is that most students might not be concerned about this, since this is not a subject they chose to study. However, we are fully aware that for a small number of students, this news may be disappointing as they were keen to finish the course and have continued to work on this subject since lockdown.

Therefore, for any students who do want to see the course to its completion, Ms Lyons will deliver the course in an after school session on one day each week. In these sessions the students will complete the two pieces of coursework (between now and Easter) and will then prepare for next summer's examination. We feel that this offer does not penalise those students wishing to see the qualification through to completion and hope you will appreciate this offer of ongoing support from Ms Lyons.

If you would like your son to join this class or if you have any queries about this then please email Ms Lyons, Head of Business Studies, on s.lyons@tsatrust.org.uk, who will respond to any questions and can add him to the class list.



I hope you can see the rationale for this decision and I look forward to welcoming your son back to us next week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Preston', is placed above the printed name.

Mr L. Preston
Principal
Holcombe Grammar School.