

Dear Parents and Carers,

Curriculum Update – Year 10 Provision

Introduction

I want to begin by acknowledging that my letter sent last Thursday did not provide enough information about the recent curriculum changes. I understand that this lack of clarity has caused serious concern among parents and carers, and I apologise for that. This updated communication is intended to offer a more detailed explanation of the decisions made and the reasons behind them.

Overview

In response to cohort size, timetabling constraints, and feedback from external moderation, we have made two key amendments to the Year 10 curriculum. These changes are designed to:

- Improve student outcomes
- Ensure curriculum viability
- Align with updated specifications

1. Business Studies

Planned Provision: Introduce GCSE Business Studies alongside BTEC Business Studies

Issue: The GCSE group was too small to timetable effectively without negatively impacting other classes

Action Taken: All students have been moved to BTEC Business Studies

Rationale: BTEC offers a more flexible and accessible pathway for the cohort, with broader vocational relevance. Key Stage 4 groups have followed the BTEC pathway.

2. Animal Care

Previous Provision: BTEC Animal Care

Issue: Moderator feedback on last year's coursework was critical. An internal review by subject leaders found the moderator comments inconsistent with the specification

Concern: The current delivery model would likely only support students to achieve a Level 1 Pass, which is below expectations

The course was previously believed to involve extensive hands-on animal care at college. However, the updated specification now only requires **two animal visits across the two-year course**

Action Taken: Students have been switched to **Travel and Tourism**, a previously successful and well-received course

Rationale: Travel and Tourism has a proven track record of engagement and achievement and offers a more robust pathway for the current cohort

Further opportunity to discuss

There will be a further opportunity to discuss these changes at the Year 10 Curriculum Evening this Thursday starting at 5pm. We encourage all parents and carers to attend, as this will be a chance to ask questions, share feedback, and gain a clearer understanding of how the curriculum will support students moving forward.

Best wishes



Annabel Stoddart
Headteacher

Appendix

BTEC Business Studies

BTEC Business Studies instead of GCSE Business will not limit future opportunities, provided students engage fully and perform well. Here's why:

Recognition and Value

- Widely accepted by universities and colleges, especially when combined with GCSEs in core subjects or A-levels
- Vocational and practical, valued by employers and education providers for real-world relevance
- Clear progression from Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) to Level 3 (A-level equivalent), and beyond

Pathways After BTEC Business

- **Further Education:** BTEC Level 3 National in Business or related subjects
- **Apprenticeships:** Many business-related apprenticeships welcome BTEC students
- **University:** Over 95% of UK universities accept BTEC Level 3 qualifications, including many Russell Group institutions
- **Employment:** Develops teamwork, communication, and project management skills highly valued by employers

Benefits of Studying BTEC Travel and Tourism

BTEC Travel and Tourism develops a wide range of **soft skills** that support future pathways in university, apprenticeships, or employment.

Key Soft Skills Gained

- **Communication:** Professional interaction with customers and colleagues
- **Teamwork:** Collaborative projects and role-plays
- **Problem-Solving:** Real-world scenarios like handling complaints or planning itineraries
- **Time Management:** Planning trips and meeting deadlines

- **Customer Service Awareness:** Meeting and exceeding customer expectations
- **Cultural Awareness:** Understanding global destinations and diverse needs
- **Presentation & Research:** Creating promotional materials and presenting findings

How These Skills Support Your Next Steps

- **University:** Prepares students for coursework, group projects, and presentations
- **Apprenticeships:** Soft skills make candidates stand out as work-ready
- **Employment:** Practical experience and interpersonal skills are highly valued in travel, hospitality, and customer service roles