



# St Peter's Catholic High School

*A Specialist Visual Arts College*



POL/ABA

20<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

## **A guide to the GCSE reforms (2015-2019)**

New GCSE courses are being introduced by the Government between September 2015 and September 2017, which will impact on all students currently in Year 10 and below. There will also be changes to the way in which the examinations are graded. During this time, students will possibly be taking a mixture of new and old courses and, in the case of GCSEs between 2017 and 2019, they will be receiving results some of which are graded in letters and some in numbers.

The main features of the new GCSEs are:

- A new grading scale of 9 to 1 will be used, with 9 being the top grade. This will allow greater differentiation between students and will help distinguish the new GCSEs from previous versions. The current guidance is that a 4 is roughly equivalent to a C and a 7 and above is roughly equivalent to an A and above.
- Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- There will be new, more demanding content, which has been developed by the Government and the exam boards.
- Courses will be designed for two years of study – they will no longer be divided into different modules and students will take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.
- Exams can only be split into 'foundation tier' and 'higher tier' if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities. In Maths, a tier structure at St Peter's is in place, however, in English, no tier structure is in place.
- Resit opportunities will only be available in the November following a pupil leaving St Peter's.

These changes will affect your child as follows:-

### **1. Current Year 11 students**

- Your child will complete his/her current GCSEs in June 2016 and will be unaffected by the GCSE reforms.

Howards Lane, Orrell, Wigan WN5 8NU  
Tel: 01942 747693 Fax: 01942 747 694  
Email: [enquiries@admin.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr. A. McGlown M.A. (Oxon) N.P.O.H

## **2. Current Year 10 students**

- Your child will take the new GCSE courses in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics. These will be taught from September 2015 and first examined in June 2017. Grades will be shown as 9-1.
- His/her other GCSE courses will be the current, unreformed courses. Grades will be shown as A\*-G.

## **3. Current Year 9 students**

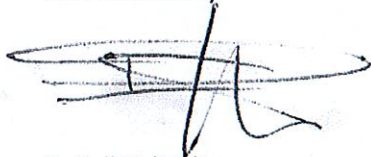
- Your child will take the new GCSE courses in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics.
- Depending on his/her GCSE options choices, he/she may also take new courses in Art, Computing, Drama, Geography, History, Languages, Technology, Music and Physical Education. These will be taught from September 2016 and first examined in June 2018. Grades will be shown as 9-1.

## **4. Current Year 8 students**

- All the GCSE subjects should have been reformed in time for teaching in September 2017 with first examinations in 2019. Therefore your child will be taking the new courses in every subject. All grades will be expressed as 9-1, when the results are published in the summer of 2019.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Pollitt', written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark.

C. Pollitt (Mr)  
Assistant Headteacher