



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well in these difficult times.

I am writing to you today since we have received a number of requests to change GCSE option subjects recently and I am writing to explain our approach to dealing with these requests.

We understand that making subject choices as early as we have to do in Year 9 is not an easy task for many pupils, since they do not really know yet which path they want to take in their future professional life. We therefore always recommend choosing a broad variety of subjects. Here at BHGS, we give our pupils the opportunity to choose a good variety of subjects. For the vast majority, we manage to allocate their choices, sometimes having to use their reserve. This is a fact we are really proud of.

In the first 3 to 4 weeks of year 10, we allow pupils to settle in. There are always a few cases where our pupils realise that they have made the wrong choice. We always try to resolve these and allow them to swap subjects where this is necessary and possible. Pupils will still be able to catch up on work missed and usually do so.

After the initial 4 weeks, our pupils should have had enough lessons in the subjects to notice whether this is 'not for them'.

I am still receiving requests now, after 10 weeks of teaching. This is far too late to allow a change of subject as pupils have missed a lot of content and assessments already; much of the essential work required for each subject has been covered and cannot simply be caught up on. In many cases whole units of work needed for examinations in Year 11 have already been done and the class have moved on to new topics. Therefore, we are not able to accommodate changes of subject and regretfully will have to decline any requests made. If a pupil is finding a particular option subject difficult, the first step should always be to talk to their teacher who will be able to give some guidance and together they can find strategies on how to overcome these difficulties. It is not unusual for pupils to struggle with a subject and we will always work with them to help them to achieve.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood

Dr S Venz

Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



