

11th September 2018

Re: New Groupings for Year 8 Maths and English Classes

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted that we have been joined this year by some more very talented Maths and English specialists; Mrs Hill, Ms Perry (English) and Mr White (Maths). This has given us the ability to re-group Year 8 students into four new English and Maths classes.

The focus of these new groups is to maximise individual progress and confidence. Students' past performance at Wixams has formed part of the rationale for their group, but independence and confidence have been equally considered. Groups are named after top performing Universities, because we expect all of our students to aspire to reach their full potential.

The groups are structured as follows:

- Cambridge – students who benefit from accessing a higher teacher-student ratio. This group is supported by the teacher and two learning assistants. The focus is on maximising rapid progress by building confidence.
- Edinburgh – students who are confident learners in either Maths or English.
- Imperial – students who are confident and independent learners.
- Oxford – students who are strong, confident and independent learners.

Teachers will be jointly planning and all groups will have the opportunity to access all levels of work, from support to challenge. For example, weekly differentiated Maths homework sheets will continue to be the same for all students in Year 8, with a support sheet available with scaffolding and hints for any student who may wish to use it.

We do not expect students to change group in the first half term. However, we aim to be flexible and if a student is not making rapid progress then a group change is one possible strategy. In this case we would have a discussion with the student and inform parents before any change is implemented. We do not expect a student to change group more than once in a year.

We are confident that by tailoring the groups in this way, we will be better able to support our students to progress and build the confidence and resilience required for the rigors of the new GCSE exams.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Hepburn
Director of Assessment