

Sixth Form policy for continuing with Linear A -Level courses

Historically sixth form students have taken four AS levels with a view to discontinuing one after receiving their summer results. With the new Linear A Level, students will be under more pressure over the examination period and it is recommended that only students with 8A*-A at GCSE, or above, embark on a programme of four subjects. The implications of a three, rather than four AS or equivalent programme of study is that if a student is not performing well in a subject, they significantly reduce their future options if they drop a subject and only complete two, level three courses. Having a profile of two A level (or equivalent qualifications) significantly reduces students' options post sixth form and is not recommended.

To manage this there are three main options:

1. Post AS result the department embarks on a programme of intense intervention and personalised targets to support the student in making significant improvements. If improvements are visible throughout the year and following the mock examination, and the department is confident that the student will succeed in the A Level examinations, the student is entered and sits the summer A Level exam.
2. Departmental intervention as above is in place but the department still has concerns that the student will not pass the A level examination. In this case, following the mock examination, if the student has still not made a significant improvement, the student and parents will be informed by the Head of Department and the student will not be entered for the A Level examination. Students will be made aware that this outcome will result in them leaving with two A Level/ BTEC qualifications and one AS which may reduce their destination post sixth form. The student could be re-entered for a resit AS level at the department's discretion (the student will pay for the re-sit)
3. Following AS results if student wants to drop the subject in which they are underperforming and not pick up another AS, in this case the student must speak to ALA and a personalised programme of study will be put in place, such as work experience or an EPQ. Again students will be made aware that this option will reduce their options post sixth form.
4. Depending on the circumstances of the student, if a student fails their AS exam, following discussion with the sixth form team the student may be allowed to re-start Year 12 with a different set of subjects. The student's progress will be closely monitored and progression into year 13 will be dependent on performance throughout the year and in the AS examination.

We understand that every student is different and will endeavour to take individual circumstances into account when deciding on which of the above options to follow. Students, parents and carers will be informed and the best outcome for the student will be discussed. Continuation onto any course in the sixth form is dependent on attendance and work ethic and parents may be asked to consider alternative provision for their child if attendance and or work ethic are not in line with the expectations of the school. We would expect parents to support the school in arriving at the best course of action for a student, any suggestions made by ourselves will always be in the best interest of the student.

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