

15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you as we enter the new academic year to explain the setting changes that are going to happen this week for current year 8 students in Maths. Here is an outline of how the students have been setted this year so far:

There were three groupings in each band

Group 1	Set 1	Only set 1 students in both X and Y band
Group 2	Sets 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	Students in sets 2-6 in both bands were made up of pupils of mixed ability.
Group 3	Set 7	Both bands had a specialist smaller class, for students who need a slightly different curriculum/learning environment.

As of this week, the students will now be setted as such:

Group 1	Sets 1 and 2	Sets 1 and 2 are now on an equal tier, made up of the highest ability students
Group 2	Sets 3, 4 and 5	Students in sets 3-5 are made up of pupils of mixed ability
Group 3	Set 6	Only set 6 students
Group 4	Set 7	Only set 7 students

We have made these changes in response to parental, student and staff feedback. It means we have double the space in the top sets to stretch and challenge our most able students. We also now have a smaller set 6 in both bands, giving some students the extra support they need. However, we do still believe in the positives of mixed ability setting. Having mixed ability classes of a slightly smaller range than previously should enable these students to see all of the benefits whilst finding the classwork suitably challenging.

All of this means that some pupils may have appeared to have moved multiple sets due to their class codes on their new timetables. In reality, students may have only moved up/down by one set or possibly none at all due to the new groupings. Below are some specific examples:

Situation 1 – A student was in 8Y1 and is now in 8Y2. This student hasn't technically been moved ability grouping at all, and is instead just in the second set of group 1.

Situation 2 – A student was in 8X5 and is now in 8X1. This student has actually just moved up one set from group 2 to group 1.

Situation 3 – A student was in 8Y2 and is now in 8Y6. This student has moved down one set from group 2 to the new group 3. This is to ensure they are getting the support they need in a smaller, more tailored class.

This should help to explain the changes in sets for this year but if you have any further questions please do get in touch.

Yours faithfully

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