



## The Blue Coat School

An Academy 'Leaders in Science and Mathematics'

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21 October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

### Re: Keeping you informed – Sixth form 2017/18

As you will know, changes to the structure of A Levels and GCSE grading systems are being gradually implemented across the country over the coming years. During this time, we are carefully planning how best to use these changes to give the very best curriculum opportunities for all of our students. It is extremely important to us that you are kept up to date about our plans so that you are as well placed as the school to support your son/daughter as they consider their next steps. Similarly, we are committed to ensuring that the students are equally well informed and consequently, we have shared the below information with all Year 11 students this week.

Over the last two years, the government have introduced a number of changes to A Level courses and for your assistance you can read more about the detail of those changes [here](#). To support a smooth transition, we have patiently waited until those changes have been implemented consistently across all subjects before reviewing what changes we might consider to achieve the best approach for Blue Coat Students. In summary:

- In September 2017, The Blue Coat School will continue to provide the same 18 subjects that are presently offered
- AS Levels will no longer count towards A Levels and as a result, we no longer need to use teaching time to prepare students for AS examinations but will instead use the time more productively to prepare them even better for their A Levels
- AS Levels are not a requirement for university applications and consequently, we will provide a curriculum that gives students the opportunity to focus their attention on achieving outstandingly well in 3 or 4 full A Levels
- As a valuable replacement for AS Levels, all students will undertake the Extended Project Qualification which, in many cases has the potential to reduce a future university offer.

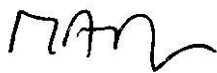
In summer 2017, current Year 11 students will receive GCSE's in English and Mathematics in the form of grades 9 to 1. At the same time they will receive GCSE's in all other subjects as grades A\* to U. To assist your understanding of these new grades this [link](#) will take you to a helpful graphic provided by Ofqual to help schools, parents and students understand the equivalences between the old and new systems. Consequently we have already begun to reflect these national changes in our sixth form admission requirements which have been shared with your son/daughter and are attached to this letter for your convenience.

Over the coming weeks, we will be following up the communication of this information with opportunities for your son/daughter to talk to our independent careers advisor. We hope to ensure that well before our formal process of application to the sixth form in March, all of our students have had a the right opportunities to think about these changes and what they mean for them as an individual.

I hope this early update assists you in support of the important choices your child will make this year. We will be providing even more detail at our Y11 Options evening on 20 March 2017 but if you would like further information in advance of that date you can read more on our [website](#). Alternatively, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Roberts (Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment) through [n.roberts@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:n.roberts@bluecoatschool.org.uk) if you have any further queries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M A Pennington  
**Headteacher**



# Sixth form entry requirements

September 2017

The Blue Coat School offers students the opportunity to study 3 or 4 A Levels:

**To study 3 A levels you must have a minimum of:**

- ✓ GCSE Mathematics Grade 6
- ✓ GCSE English Grade 6
- ✓ 52 points from your best 8 GCSE's

**To study 4 A Levels you must have a minimum of:**

- ✓ GCSE Mathematics Grade 6
- ✓ GCSE English Grade 6
- ✓ 62 points from your best 8 GCSE's

You must also satisfy the minimum requirements for the subjects you choose to study:

Subject	GCSE minimum requirement	Or
Art	Art: Grade B	Art BTEC: Distinction
Biology	Biology: Grade A	Core/Additional/Further Science: Grades AAA or A*A
Chemistry	Chemistry: Grade A	Core/Additional/Further Science: Grades AAA or A*A
Economics	Mathematics: Grade 7	
English (Language & Literature)	English Language: Grade 7	
English (Literature)	English Literature: Grade 7	
French	French: Grade A	
Further Mathematics	Mathematics: Grade 8	
Geography	Geography: Grade B	
Government & Politics	Humanity: Grade B	
History	History: Grade B	English Language/Literature: Grade 7
Latin	Latin: Grade A	
Mathematics	Mathematics: Grade 7	
Music	Music: Grade A	ABRS Music: Grade 5 Theory & Practical
Physics	Physics: Grade A	Core/Additional/Further Science: Grades AAA or A*A
Psychology	English Language: Grade 6	
Religious Studies	Religious Studies: Grade A	English: Grade 7
Spanish	Spanish: Grade A	

The following table shows you the points value of GCSE grades:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0