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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Changes to A-level options from 2016-17

As the students progress through Year 11 it is great to see them thinking carefully about what they want the study after their GCSE's. For many students this means looking at which A-level subjects they can choose.

As you already know, The Blue Coat School like all other schools across the country is carefully considering how it deals with national reductions to funding. In order to continue to offer our students the highest academic standards, we have reviewed the number of A-level subjects on offer at The Blue Coat School.

As part of this review, we have taken the decision to focus on A-level subjects considered to be 'core facilitating courses', which are the ones our students most need to gain access to the courses they go on to study at university.

Students choosing A-level subjects at the beginning of next September will not be offered Design Technology, Physical Education, Philosophy or Computing because we have identified these subjects are least required for our students to progress to higher education. However, students will have a healthy range of 17 subjects on offer, including Art, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, English Literature, English Language and Literature, French, Geography, History, Latin, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Music, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies and Spanish. We are very proud that students will still be able to undertake 4 A-levels from this choice, which is more than most schools offer.

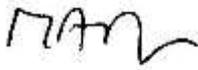
We have a long history of guiding students towards the subjects they most enjoy, most excel at and most need to help them succeed. In spite of the recent government cuts to spending on education, our A-level students celebrated a truly remarkable year in 2015 with more than 80 percent gaining A*, A or B grades and over a-quarter gaining A* grades."



We know that you will want to support your children carefully as they consider the next steps in their education. As ever, we too will continue to support and inform their choices over the coming months so that they feel confident about what decisions to make. For Year 11 students a key part of this will be our Options' Evening in February where we will provide even more detailed information to assist their choices.

Until then, Mr Barends (Key Stage 4 Manager) will be ensuring students are given regular opportunities to begin to think about the choices they can make over the coming months. I hope that you are reassured by this information and encourage you to contact school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher