

APPENDIX A – GROUPING / SETTING POLICY

As a selective school, the banding or setting of students is less relevant than in schools with a full comprehensive cohort. However, it is important that students have the opportunity to work with peers in different classes and therefore some regrouping occurs at the end of each academic year.

Form tutor groups are organised in most years in a paired year structure (i.e. Year 7 and Year 8 are together, Year 9 and Year 10 are together, Year 11 are on their own and Year 12 and Year 13 are together). The allocation to form groups is reorganised less frequently with the concept being that students will bond with their peers for at least a two year period outside of timetabled lessons and enjoy the continuity of daily contact with the same group of girls.

Grouping occurs academically and pastorally at the following points:

Stage	Academic Grouping	Pastoral Grouping
On entry in Year 7	Students are allocated to a teaching group X, Y or Z and a practical group A-D. These groups are allocated alphabetically.	Students are allocated to a form group based upon advice from the primary schools we visit. Form groups are based upon Houses and family links are maintained.
At the start of Year 8	Students are re-sorted for Year 8 in X,Y,Z and A-D. This enables them to work with different students and find new work friends.	Students remain in their form group for Year 8 for continuity. They become 'buddies' for the new Year 7s in their house.
At the start of Year 9	Students are re-sorted into GCSE Option blocks according to their choices. In core subjects, they are regrouped into X,Y,Z ready to begin KS4. One maths group (a) is identified to potentially take Further Maths L2 and the other two are mixed classes.	The form groups are re-sorted for KS4. The students move tutor and half of each form is kept together. The tutors usually support the HoY in ensuring that friendship groups can be maintained.
At the start of Year 10	Owing to our unique curriculum where we move from 4 option blocks to 3 in Year 10, a little re-grouping is necessary. XYZ groups remain unchanged.	Students remain in their form group for Year 10 for continuity.
At the start of Year 11	No change – groups continue into Year 11	Students from both Y9/10 form groups in each house merge to make one form per house in Year 11.

Stage	Academic Grouping	Pastoral Grouping
At the start of Year 12	Academic classes are all mixed ability and sorted dependent upon the options taken by the students.	Students are put into a form group in their house. Attention is given to ensuring that all forms have a mixture of students from Year 11 and new entrants to Sixth Form.
At the start of Year 13	There is no change unless any classes are collapsed owing to lower numbers taking the subject than expected in Year 12.	Students remain in their form group for Year 13, usually with the same tutor.

The decision of the school with regard to the allocation of students to form groups and teaching classes is final. Any concerns can be raised in the normal way by contacting the form tutor or Head of Year in the first instance. We are aware that change can cause anxiety, but we are equally keen to ensure that students are academically challenged and not reliant on other students for too long. Whilst requests for certain teachers are sometimes heard for GCSE/A-level, this is not something we are in a position to entertain.