



PHILIP MORANT

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

DTL/me/structure

21st December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to inform you of a proposed change in the curriculum structure at the Philip Morant School and College.

We have been reviewing our curriculum offer across all key stages and are looking to make some changes at KS4 and would welcome your views. Currently we deliver our GCSE courses across Years 10 and 11, the GCSE exams start in earnest during May of Year 11, so effectively, courses need to be completed and students prepared for examinations in less than two full school years.

We are proposing extending KS4 over 3 years, starting courses in Year 9 instead of Year 10. This would significantly increase our students' learning time and allow for a really deep learning experience ensuring that all topics are explored fully and in depth. We aim to enrich the learning experience, ensuring our students have the time to explore and debate the topics covered. To illustrate the point, a student studying a GCSE option for 2.5 hours a week across 2 years would have 2.5h (38 + 30*) = 170 learning hours; across 3 years 3.5 (38 + 38 + 30*) = 265 learning hours, an increase of almost 100 hours across the course. (* Year 11 exams start in May, effectively 30 weeks.)

We have spoken to a number of student panels in Year 8 about this proposal and most of them felt they already knew which subjects they wanted to continue to study and those which they no longer wished to study. They liked the prospect of choosing their options earlier.

We are confident that implementing an extended KS4 programme will have a very positive impact, not only on the application of learning but also the achievement and consequent progression routes available. We all recognise the pressure that the GCSE years bring and feel strongly that students with a greater depth of knowledge and understanding are less likely to feel the stress of the final examinations and thus improve their performance.

At the present time we are really seeking your views. Please follow the link below to have your say by January 10th 2019.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DMBZ983>

Yours sincerely

Dianne Tayel
Assistant Principal Curriculum

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