



St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr T McCabe | **Deputy Headteachers:** Mr M Graham, Mrs J Morgan | **Chair of Governors:** Mrs P Jones
Registered Charity Number: 1075795 | **Facebook/Twitter:** StJosephsRCHS

September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to invite you to the 'We're in it Together' Evening for year 8 in St Anthony's Centre on Tuesday 2 October from 6:00-7:00pm. Parking will be available on the school yard and St Anthony's is a short walk away along Sefton Lane.

The agenda will be as follows:

Welcome

Achievement, Exams and Groupings

Supporting Your Child in Year 8

One purpose of the evening was to explain the current groupings and how they will be reviewed during the year. As a number of parents have already enquired about this, I feel it is worth explaining some of the background to this prior to the meeting.

Last year I led a curriculum review to which many parents contributed. Please see my letters of 10 January and 15 May for more details. Copies of these are available on the school website. One of the things that came out from the review was that the grouping arrangements in years 7 and 8 had scope for development. As my January letter explained, most people who responded wanted us to move away from the model we had then of 6 linear groups with one group above another one. Most parents felt that those arrangements were not getting the best out their child and our outcome measures confirmed that. A change needed to be made. What was preferred was to move to a system that remained aspirational and challenging for the most academically able but did not allow this to seem unobtainable for the rest of the pupils. What was agreed upon was a stretch band and a mixture of parallel banding for core subjects and mixed ability ones for other subjects. This is the current system.

I need to stress that the ability levels of our pupils is extremely high and that pupils in our sets 3 for Maths or English have the ability and attainment levels of pupils in a set 1 in most other schools. Although the J band is designed to be aspirational and to push the most academically able, it is not intended to be exclusive. They will follow the same curriculum as everyone else, though the pace and level of challenge will be very stretching. We will be reviewing groupings each term based on progress. If a child is struggling with the pace in J band or is making great progress outside of it, there will be a move. It is expected that around half a dozen will swap from the J band to the other groups each term. We have tried to design a system which allows us flexibility to better tailor the curriculum to the individual needs of pupils. As part of this we have also created an extra group in year 8 so that your child will benefit from being taught in smaller classes. Many thanks for all those who participated in the curriculum consultation, online or face to face throughout last year, your input was invaluable.



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I trust this is helpful and there are more details on the website under the parent tab - curriculum, but I hope you will also be able to attend the meeting next week. We aim as a school to work with you as closely as possible over the coming academic year in order to ensure that each pupil has both a positive school experience and to also aim for the best possible outcomes for each pupil. For that purpose, please confirm attendance and numbers on the slip below.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and please address any queries to myself in advance.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Graham

Mr Graham
Deputy Headteacher

Please return the slip to Form Tutors

I will/will not be attending the 'We're in it Together' Evening for Year 8 on 2nd October 2018

I will require _____ seats.

Signed _____ Parent/Carer of _____ Form _____

