

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Changes to qualification entry for your child – Religious Studies Specification A (Ethics)**

We are writing to you regarding your child's qualification in Ethics. We are constantly reviewing the qualifications students are sitting to make sure they are taking the right courses. We have reviewed the Religious Studies course and we no longer feel that it is the right course for the majority of our students due to the change in the course content and the new grading system.

We want your child to be entered for an examination that they can achieve their best in, and at the moment we don't feel this is true of the Religious Studies Specification A exam for many of the year group. This is especially true due to the pattern of national entries for this subject. Taking into account all the changes, we have decided not to enter the whole year group for this examination.

Instead, in their Ethics curriculum time they will be studying for and working towards a financial qualification produced by the London Institute of Banking: Certificate in Financial Education. This qualification is accredited by Ofqual and is included in the 14-19 Technical Awards Performance Tables meaning it will be recognised by colleges, training providers and employers. Our Year 11's began studying for this qualification after autumn half term and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

We feel this fits well with the skill sets required by us all, and certainly for our young people as they move into Post-16 education, training and eventually employment. Indeed, recent news reports highlight the current gaps in student knowledge around financial knowledge and security.

Students have of course covered a wide range of topics in their ethics lessons, which have helped develop their personal opinions and had to be covered as part of our statutory delivery to young people. Moving forwards we intend to offer this course in the options process for those young people who would like to explore it as a subject choice.

We hope the reasons for making this decision are clear:

- We do not think the Religious Studies course is allowing young people to achieve appropriate grades
- We do not want them to continue on a route that won't reward them
- We think the time could be used to achieve a qualification that might be of use
- The need for more financial awareness has been highlighted by businesses, media and our own students

Year 10 will begin the new finance course immediately after the Christmas break. Please take the opportunity to book a parents' evening appointment with Mr. Caley or Mr. Pull if you would like any further information.

Yours faithfully,



Dr S Fox  
Principal



Mr J Caley  
Subject Leader for Ethics