



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

10 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the start of term and the publication of the timetable, I would like to take this opportunity to answer a few curriculum questions you may have.

Classes in Year 8 are currently grouped on mixed ability throughout most subjects. The way these classes are grouped will vary across subjects. The groups will vary for each subject, so that students are able to get to know and work with a good number of students in the year group. There is strong evidence that the later students are grouped by ability the better, and that mixed ability groups perform better in the early years of secondary school. We would like to ensure that our broad and balanced curriculum is available to all students and, no matter what their background, their primary school or their experience during the pandemic, all students should be given the chance to thrive academically. The aim is that every student is placed in a class, which ensures they make maximum progress. All classes will remain the same throughout the year and class group changes will not take place until the end of the year in readiness for the next academic year.

Classes are named after the subject and the teacher, e.g. 08Y/MA-DRI refers to a Year 8 class, being taught maths, by DRI (staff code for Mr D Ridley). The letter supports our timetable structure and has no relevance. We have removed class numbered groups to avoid confusion.

Every student in Year 8 will study the same curriculum and this is part of our pledge that all students should have a broad and balanced education. The only difference between individual students' delivery will be where there is a different two language option taken. All students will be studying the 'Ignite' curriculum, which will ensure that all students in Year 8 receive an experience in music, drama, Latin, personal development and lectures across the year on a rota basis.

Each term throughout the year we will publish a report on progress. This will provide academic information on various assessments undertaken throughout the term, and also information on a student's responsibility for learning. The Year 8 annual exam will take place in the summer term, for which we will provide a report at the end of the school year.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Ridley
Assistant Vice Principal (Academic)