



ROSSETT SCHOOL
A Specialist Mathematics & Computing College

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Changes to Year 9 Pathway B curriculum

Your child will have informed you that we are going to be making some changes to their BTEC course. The purpose of this letter is to outline the changes and explain why we are making them.

The Government have made some changes to the value of vocational qualifications and these changes affect all Year 9 students who have started their BTEC courses.

Fortunately the structure of our curriculum enables us to make only minor changes to ensure your child still has the same, and possibly an increased, opportunity to achieve the headline target of 5 A*-C including English and Maths. The proposed changes will also provide a broader range of subjects for progression beyond Year 11.

Further details can be found on the school website in the Parents section under 'Letters Home' 'Frequently Asked Questions – Year 9 Pathway B curriculum'. The following is a brief summary of the changes:

- Your child will continue the BTEC First course they started June 2011.
- Students will be re-registered for an Extended Certificate instead of the current Diploma.
- The Extended Certificate is worth 2 GCSEs and will be completed in June 2012 whereas the Diploma was worth 4 GCSEs and would have been completed in June 2013.
- Under the new regulations, which apply from Summer 2014 when your child is in Year 11, both the Extended Certificate and Diploma will only be worth 1 GCSE in the headline figures and there is therefore no real value in spending an extra year working towards the Diploma.
- As a result of these changes your child will be able to choose another optional subject for Year 10, in place of finishing the Diploma, and a further optional subject in Year 11. As one of these subjects should be a new BTEC First Award, fifty per cent of your child's timetable will continue to be assigned to vocational courses during Years 9-11

I would like to assure you that the school and governing body have looked into these changes in detail and consider this to be the best possible model for pathway B students to achieve their headline target under the new guidelines.

A brief meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 December at 6.30pm for any parents wishing to discuss these changes. There will also be an additional opportunity at the Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 15 December when you are welcome to make an appointment with a senior member of staff to talk about any concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely

P Hunter
Headteacher