



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Graham Scott

21st September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I stated at our Sixth Form Open Evening last year, and then repeated at the Year 12 Transition Evening, that we were yet to make a decision on whether we would enter Year 12 students for AS Level examinations in the summer term.

All A Levels are now 'decoupled', which means that the AS Level examination no longer contributes towards the full A Level. On this basis, some schools have abandoned the AS Level entirely. However, some schools, ourselves included, still enter students for AS Level examinations as we believe they provide a valuable progress check. They help us understand where a student's strengths and weaknesses lie, so that we can ensure that interventions are put in place so that every student can be successful at the end of Year 13.

We review this policy every year to ensure that your child's achievement is at the heart of everything we do. On this basis, we have decided to retain the AS Level examination in the following subject areas:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, English Literature, Mathematics and Art & Design.

After careful consultation with the Humanities Faculty, we have decided not to enter students for AS Level examinations in Geography and History.

The reason for this is because in these two subjects, the content and skills needed to complete the A Level examination at the end of Year 13 is different to what is required for the AS Level exam. On this basis, time can be wasted in year 12 preparing students for examined content that is unnecessary for the full A Level.

The decision to not enter students for the AS Level examinations in Geography and History will be in no way detrimental to a University/Apprenticeship application. Please also rest assured that robust assessments will be put in place in the summer term to ensure that we are tracking student's attainment accurately, and responding to their needs accordingly.

If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me at the school, via email (aironside@astleyhigh.org) or telephone (0191 2371505).

Yours faithfully

Mr Adam Ironside

Assistant Head Teacher

Head of Sixth Form