



Ark Charter Academy

Thursday 15th June 2017

Dear parent/carer

Curriculum changes for 2017/18

I am writing to inform you of some curriculum changes which are taking effect from September involving Catering and Geography.

I am sorry to let you know that due to unforeseen circumstances both our Catering teachers left Charter Academy at February half term. Whilst we have been able to use a supply teacher to cover the lessons for the rest of this academic year, we were unable to recruit a permanent teacher for September. Following difficulties recruiting and retaining specialist teachers over the past 4 years, Charter Senior Leadership Team has reluctantly taken the difficult decision to withdraw this subject from the curriculum. We think this is in the best interests of the students as we are unable to guarantee the delivery and quality of the course.

Currently students in Year 8 have 4 lessons of English a week, from September this will increase to 5 lessons which brings it in line with the other year groups.

Due to issues with recruiting Geography specialists we have taken the decision to temporarily withdraw GCSE Geography as an option for year 9 students next year. Instead all students will study GCSE History. We have not taken this decision lightly, but despite our best efforts we will only have one Geography specialist in post for September and not all our History specialists are experienced with delivering Geography at GCSE. We have prioritised our A Level students and GCSE Geography students in Year 11 and Year 10 and so we are not able to offer this to students in Year 9.

We will be investing in additional training for some of our History specialists to enable them to deliver GCSE Geography with a view to being able to offer this as an option for students in 2018/19. Geography will still be taught in Year 7 and Year 8 so that students are able to take this as a GCSE option. Currently all our Humanities teachers deliver Geography, History and RE in KS3 and so the quality of the provision will be unaffected.

If you would like to discuss these changes further, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Morey

Vice Principal



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