



MC/KRE

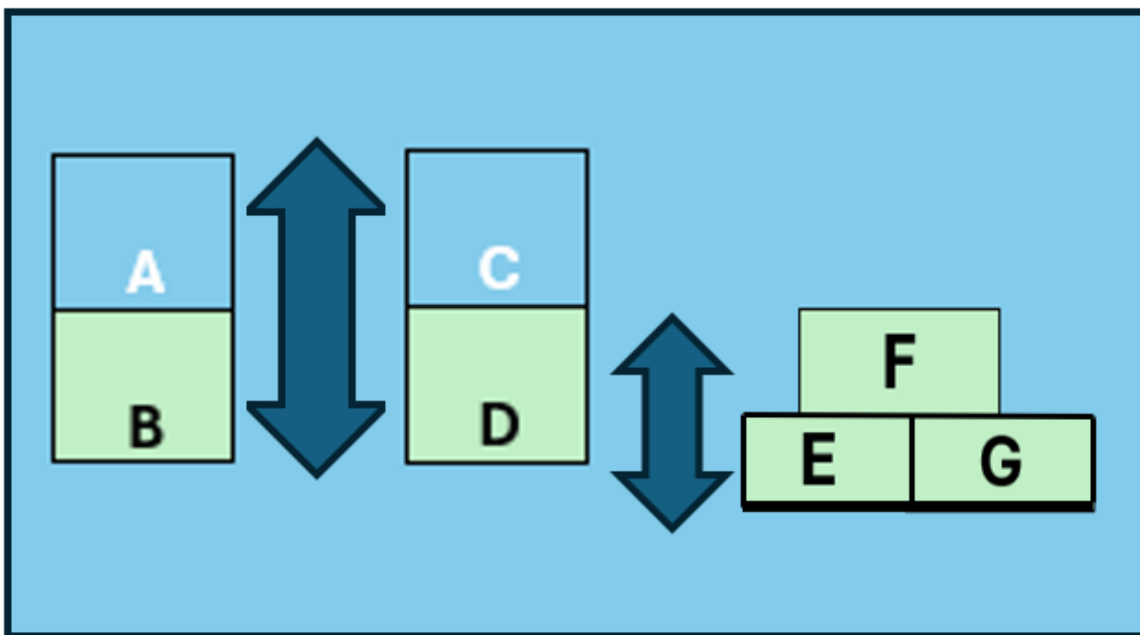
15th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to introduce myself as the newly appointed Head of Year 8 and to provide some additional clarification regarding the setting arrangements.

I appreciate that recent changes to the setting structure may have raised questions for some families, and I would like to provide some clarity on how the system now operates.

The diagram below illustrates how sets are organised currently. Sets A and C contain our highest-attaining students, with Set C predominantly comprising students who demonstrate particular strength and aptitude in Mathematics.



All students have been allocated to sets based on a range of information, including prior attainment, performance in end-of-year assessments and their projected outcomes. Our revised approach has been designed to provide greater flexibility, ensuring that students are placed in classes that best meet their individual learning needs.

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A key benefit of the new system is that it creates more opportunities for movement between sets. Students who consistently demonstrate strong effort, positive attitudes to learning and high levels of achievement will have the opportunity to move into higher sets through future assessment points. Any movement between sets will be evidence-based and carefully considered to ensure that each student continues to receive the most appropriate level of challenge and support.

In addition, students can now be set independently in English, Mathematics and Science. This allows those with particular strengths in one subject area to access a higher level of challenge without being restricted by a fixed, linear setting model across all subjects.

We believe this is a positive development that better recognises individual strengths and provides all students with a clear pathway to progress. It rewards hard work, ambition and sustained academic effort, while ensuring that every child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Should you have any further questions regarding setting arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr Forrest (Assistant Principal: Data and Standards). We would be happy to discuss your child's individual circumstances and provide any further clarification required.

Yours sincerely

Marilyn Cuthbert

Marilyn Cuthbert
Head of Year 8



Respectful



Responsible



Resilient