



**John Dowler B.Sc. Hons, NPQH**  
**Headteacher**

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21 June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer Year 11 students,

I am writing to you with an update regarding our option blocks for Year 12 and the process for sixth form registration in September.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the option blocks for Year 12 for September. We have tried to accommodate students' preferred subject combinations wherever possible. We have also looked to offer as many courses as possible, whilst having to consider the financial position of the school as a whole. Unfortunately, given the information we had from Year 11 students regarding their subject choice intentions, it was not viable for us to put all courses on the option blocks. Where a course appears on the option blocks, we will endeavour to ensure that the course runs in September. In subject areas where the final class sizes in September are particularly low, we may need to run those courses on fewer contact hours than usual, for example 7 or 8 hours per fortnight, rather than the usual 9.

Students can choose a maximum of one subject from each block. We expect the vast majority of students to opt for three subjects, however students with an average GCSE points score of 6.5 or higher may wish to opt for a fourth subject where possible. Students should be mindful of the considerable workload involved in taking 4 A-levels, and should also be aware that the top universities are only looking for three A-level qualifications on any application. Some students may also wish to begin with four subjects, with a view to dropping one before the end of September. This could for example be the case where students are starting courses in the sixth form, which were not available at GCSE level. Students are able to swap and/or drop subjects until the end of September, providing that they have the entry requirements for any course they may wish to swap to.

You will see that GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths re-sit classes are not yet timetabled. We will add these to the option blocks after GCSE results day, so that we can see where best to place them in the blocks to minimise disruption to option choices. Any student not achieving at least a grade 4 in either subject is required to re-sit the GCSE in Year 12. Any re-sit class is extra to the three A-level or BTEC options taken.

I will be in school on results day should you want to discuss post-16 options then. Could I also take this opportunity to remind you that sixth form registration takes place at 1:15pm on Monday 3 September in the Main Hall, and the process should take no longer than around 45 minutes. Students should all be in school on Tuesday 4 September at 8:45am for their induction/study skills day. I will write to you with more details about this before the end of term.



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Should you have any queries regarding the sixth form option blocks or your son/daughter's application to join Helsby Sixth Form during the summer, please contact me via e-mail:

[iduffell@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:iduffell@helsbyhigh.org.uk)

Best wishes for a restful and relaxing summer.

Yours sincerely

I Duffell (Mr)  
 Director of 6<sup>th</sup> Form

**Year 12 option blocks for September 2018**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
Criminology Performing Arts Engineering French Maths Level 3 Sport Politics Psychology	Drama English Language Maths Physics Photography RE Sociology	BTEC IT Biology Criminology Economics English Language Further Maths Health & Social Care Geography	BTEC Business Business Chemistry Geography History Media Studies Sociology	Art Biology Computer Science Economics English Literature Psychology

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