



A LEVEL REFORM

From September 2015 a number of subjects were reformed and follow a new specification. The September 2015 specifications were released in July 2014 in draft form. Currently our course details are up to date with this new information, although please be aware that the course details are subject to change in line with government (and Ofqual) guidance.

REFORMED SUBJECTS

The subjects listed here will be running a new specification from September 2017: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Film Studies and Government and Politics. All other subjects went through their curriculum reform in September 2015 or 2016.

MAIN FEATURES OF NEW SPECIFICATION AS AND A LEVELS

1. Assessment is mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
2. AS and A levels are assessed at the end of the course. AS assessments typically take place after 1 year's study and A levels after 2. The courses are no longer divided into modules and there will be no exams in January.
3. AS and A levels will be decoupled - this means that AS results will no longer count towards an A level, in the way they had in the past.
4. AS levels have been designed by exam boards to be taught alongside the first year of A levels.
5. The content for the new A levels has been reviewed and updated. Universities played a greater role in this for the new qualifications than they did previously.
(Ofqual, December 2015)

You can read further about developments in A level reform at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reform-of-as-and-a-level-qualifications-by-ofqual>

SOME ADVICE TO SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

The Russell Group of Universities has published a guide to making 'informed choices' in the sixth form. This is worth a view; it can be found at <http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-UK/subject-choices-at-school-and-college>

However, our advice remains as it has always been:

- Choose subjects which you find the most interesting, and which you do the best in.
- Be realistic – seek advice from teachers as to your suitability for a sixth form course.
- Think about the choices related to a future career path.