



Ref: U:\HOY\7
27 March 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

From September 2011 Banding was introduced into Years 8 and 9 at King's. From September 2015, due to the expansion to 6 forms of entry, the way banding operates will be changed. Year 8 will be split in half, three forms in each half. The subjects that will be affected by the bands are French, German Mathematics, Science, and Information Technology. In each half year group there will be one set that study French and German (double linguists) and three sets of single linguists. The double linguists in each half year group will be made up of approximately 30 students selected by the languages department. The other 60 students will be in three teaching groups studying their preferred language. The double linguists will be taught in the same set for French, German, Mathematics, science and Information technology. The single linguists will be in a set for Maths, science and Information technology which is organised independently from their language option. In each half year group there will be three sets for the single linguists. The aim of the above is to help ensure that each pupil receives the education most appropriate to his needs.

As far as Modern Languages are concerned, the double linguists will be required to study both French and German in Years 8 and 9. The single linguists will be able to express a preference for the language they would like to study, either French or German. These pupils will be given two extra periods every two weeks to study their language option and should benefit from this extra contact time.

The Single linguists will also have additional time for Science in Years 8 and 9. This extra provision is designed to raise confidence and practical skills for the future. Subjects not taught in Bands will have lessons in the same Form groups as at present.

As indicated above, pupils will be placed in the Band most appropriate to their needs. End of year exams will provide a large body of evidence for this process along with assessments taken during the year and teacher input. The hope is to inform parents and pupils of the Bands and Sets in which pupils will be taught from September when end of year reports are published. After the first assessment in early November, the performance of the pupils will be reviewed. Should performance indicate that a pupil may have been misplaced, the pupil's Bands and Groups will be considered for adjustment. Previous experience of similar arrangements suggests that only a very small number of pupils may need to be moved.

To try to ensure pupils in the single language band get their preferred language option, all pupils are being asked to indicate their preference now, ahead of the Banding exercise. Please indicate your son's preference by ringing one of the options below.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN BROOK
Deputy Headmaster

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Please return this slip to the School Office by: Monday 20 April

Banding Letter (dated 27 March 2015 - SMB)

Pupil Name:

Form:

French

German

No strong preference

Parental/Guardian Signature:

Head Master: F. Hedley M.A.

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