

### **Banding Policy at The Albany School 2017-8**

This policy outlines the setting policy for the The Albany School in years 7, and 8.

#### **Years 7, and 8**

In year 7 and 8, there are seven teaching classes in most curriculum areas at The Albany School. This may vary in areas such as science where we have more sets available or in practical subjects where we allow smaller group sizes.

There are 3 'bands' of learners. Fast Track is made up of our higher attaining students, Upper Band are those who were not categorised as 'secondary school ready' in year 6, and Middle Band consists of our students who have additional learning needs.

The key purpose of the banding is to allow for additional literacy and numeracy classes to be allocated each week, taught by subject specialists. This means that all Upper and Middle Band students receive at least 2 hours of literacy and numeracy support each week.

In Middle Band classes, the class will be allocated an LSA in as many English / literacy and maths / numeracy classes as possible.

The sets are decided by four main criteria:

1. We carry out data analysis tasks to assess students' academic ability before they arrive by looking at their SATS results in year six.
2. We speak to all of the year 6 teachers regarding the individual abilities and strengths of each student during our visits during the summer term.
3. We meet every family and discuss the ability, interests and strengths of each student with parents and students to give us a well- rounded picture of each student.
4. We use base line tests on induction day to establish our own benchmark for students before we start in September.

The teaching groups are decided using these four criteria, and we review the groups after each term.

Movements between classes and bands are frequent at The Albany as each department reviews their provision at different times during the year, however each teacher bases their decisions on data and teachers' professional opinion.

We ask for support from all parents as we decide which teaching groups are best for each child's learning.



Behaviour and attendance are taken into account when deciding classes, as we need to consider the pace and challenge of lessons and the fact that each student needs to be achieving their target grades.

### **AS Classes**

We are trialling an AS Class in year 8 this year. This is an additional group where students who are deemed to have behaviour for learning which is disruptive to the learning of themselves and others. This is a very flexible arrangement, and is to be seen as supportive rather than punitive.

The lead tutor will be Mr Henry, who is an experienced pastoral leader and teacher. The students will be placed under his guidance, in discussion with parents, if negative feedback continues from teachers after all of our usual behaviour management and pastoral systems have failed to make an impact.

Any student placed in the class will be monitored lesson by lesson, and will receive rewards and sanctions at the end of each day. The student will remain in this class for a minimum of 4 weeks before being returned to their academic band.