

24 November 2017



Dear Parent/Carer

As you are probably aware, there have been significant changes to the A Level curriculum over the last three years, with subjects moving towards a linear method of assessment where all exams take place at the end of Year 13.

Until now, Hampton College has been in the minority of schools and continued with AS assessment, even though it does not count towards students' final grade. As of September 2017, all subjects are now being taught on the linear system and following this change, the school has decided to review this policy. We now believe that in most cases, it is in the best interests of the student and the school to not sit an external AS exam at the end of Year 12. We have outlined some of the reasons for this below:

- Feedback from some teachers stated that valuable lesson time is spent teaching skills which do not form part of the Assessment Objectives for Year 13.
- Some teachers felt valuable lesson time was lost preparing students for their AS exams.
- Some teachers felt that valuable lesson time was lost during the Year 12 study leave period, as a result of a relatively lengthy exam period.
- There is a huge cost to the school of entering students for AS exams, equivalent to approximately the cost of one teacher per year.
- Most universities no longer consider AS grades when offering places, as they do not consider it fair when not all applicants will have this information and choose instead to base offers on GCSE achievement, the personal statement and the references instead.

Some subjects have chosen to continue with AS assessment at the end of Year 12, as although it doesn't count towards their final grade, it leads directly into Year 13 study. Therefore, students studying A Levels in Business, Art, English Lit/Lang and Geography will continue to sit the AS paper this academic year. Please rest assured that there will be a formal assessment for every subject at the end of Year 12, however it may be internally rather than externally marked. These exams will still be incredibly important and may impact upon whether a student continues into Year 13.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Paul Edenbrow
Assistant Head of School

Head of School (Primary Phase): Paul Jones Head of School (Secondary Phase): John Gilligan
Executive Headteacher: Helen Price

Eagle Way, Hampton Vale, Peterborough, Cambs, PE7 8BF

T: 01733 246820 (Main Switchboard) T: 01733 246821 (Primary Phase) F: 01733 246823

E: enquiries@hamptoncollege.org.uk www.hamptoncollege.org.uk

Hampton Academies Trust t/a Hampton College Company Reg No. 9129775 VAT Reg Number 204 0898 24

