

University Academy of Engineering South Bank

Trafalgar Street, London, SE17 2TP

E: office@uaesouthbank.org.uk W: www.uaesouthbank.org.uk T: 020 7277 3000



22.05.2018

Dear parents and families

Last year your child chose their GCSE options whilst they were in year 8. You may have read since then that the new GCSE courses, which your child is following, are harder and contain more content than the previous courses. Since I started as Principal in September I have been concerned that in some subjects, the students do not have enough lesson time to cover the curriculum properly and consequently there is a risk that their GCSE grades will be lower than they should be.

It is very unusual for students to study for more than 9 or 10 GCSEs, currently all of our year 9 student are studying for 10 or 11 GCSEs.

Unless we increase the lesson time allocated to some subjects there is a significant risk that students may not gain the grades they need to allow them to go on to study at A level or Level 3 BTEC in these subjects. Therefore, we are going to ask them to opt out of one of their GCSE courses. We will also be deciding whether students study separate sciences (Physics, Biology and Chemistry for 3 GCSEs) or combined science (for 2 GCSEs).

The year 9 students are about to embark on their end of year exams. These will test their knowledge, skills and understanding of the GCSE content covered since year 9. The exam timetable was shared with your child at the beginning of last week. The exams start on Monday 18th May, so please support them during exam week. This information will help us to make important decisions about which subjects to continue with next year.

There is a summary of the curriculum next year below to help you and your child decide which subject to drop and what they can expect to study next year.

To help your child with those choices we are making ourselves available to you on Thursday 24th May this week 6pm-7pm to ask any questions about this process should you have any. An option choice form will be issued on Friday after an assembly. Students will be asked to drop one subject. There is a two week deadline to make the choice.

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Create your future

Year 10 Curriculum for next academic year 2018-19

Core Curriculum - Compulsory

Subject	Number of GCSE's
- Your child will continue to study these subjects as part of their core curriculum	
English (EBacc)	2
Mathematics (EBacc)	1
Science (EBacc)	2 or 3 if doing separate sciences
Spanish (EBacc)	1
Core PE	0

Choices – Students will take 3 subjects from this list. This means that students will have to drop one of their current subjects from the list below.

Subject	Number of GCSE's
- Students will pick one subject only from here from these subjects to drop. Students may not pick a subject to drop that they previously have not been studying.	
BTEC Engineering (equivalent to one GCSE)	1
Product Design	1
Computer Science	1
History (EBacc)	1
Geography (EBacc)	1
Art	1
Drama	1
Physical Education GCSE	1
Mandarin	1
BTEC Business studies	1
Dance	1

*if doing separate sciences

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The key dates for year 10 over the next term are as follows:

Date	Event	Purpose
Mon 3 rd January - Fri 12 th January	GCSE examinations on the work that has already been covered in lessons.	For students and teachers to see how well they are doing, and to assess which areas need further work
Wed 24 th Jan	GSCE results day	Provide 'real' experience for students
Thurs 25 th Jan	Year 10 information evening	Provide guidance and information about GCSE courses, revision resources and to help make a decision about which course they will opt out of.
Fri 26 th Jan	Students given the form to complete which will indicate which course they want to opt out of	Students respond by 1 st Feb
Mon 19 th Feb	New timetable implemented	To ensure students have the right amount of teaching time for every course so that they achieve the grades they need for sixth form and college entry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Taylor'.

John Taylor

Principal