

LeAF Studio

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Principal: Mrs N Lapskas

19th March 2019

Dear Parent, Carer

Re: Course changes

We would like to take the opportunity to inform you of a couple of course changes that we are making for some Year 9 students.

Media Studies

Following feedback from our current Year 10 and 11 Media Studies cohorts, we are planning on specialising in **film** from after Easter which means students will start studying for GCSE Film Studies rather than continue with GCSE Media Studies. This is a much more engaging course and links in better with our sixth form provision (which includes the BTEC in Film and Television Visual Effects). In addition, we have developed a very profitable partnership with Bournemouth University, one of the leading universities for media courses, and they have donated a lot of professional film kit for us to use to deliver our courses which will give our students access to the best equipment and resources.

The GCSE Film Studies course is delivered by the same exam board, EDUQAS, and enables students to study a range of films from around the world, as well as create their own short film for their coursework. All of the films studied on the specification have been carefully selected for their relevance and appropriateness for schools, but some are 15 certificates. In addition, clips from a range of other films will be used at regular points throughout the course, but all will be carefully vetted by staff to ensure their suitability for lessons. If you have any concerns about your child watching approved films rated up to 15, then please let us know and we will make alternative arrangements for them.

PE

Following the appointment of our new Head of PE, Mr Evans, and on reflection and study of the newly reformed GCSE Specification (2018), we have taken the decision that from September 2019 (start of Year 10) students studying PE will be split into two separate qualifications based on their individual needs and abilities. One group will continue the GCSE PE course whilst the second group will follow the BTEC Sport Level 2 Qualification for examination in 2021. In order for us to continue delivering high quality lessons and gaining the best possible results for all our sport students, we believe that this change is essential in supporting all students to achieve their potential in PE.

The decision has not been taken lightly. The success of our students is our priority and we feel that some students will achieve higher grades by studying the BTEC Level 2 course in comparison to the reformed GCSE course. Whichever course students follow, the content that they have already studied in Year 9 will still be directly relevant to the both the GCSE and BTEC assessments.

We therefore trust that you will accept and support us with this change as we continue to drive up standards and achievement. We will be holding a parent information evening about the proposed change on **Tuesday 2nd April from 6pm** and we will be contacting all parents in the summer term with our recommendation for each student's best pathway.

If you have any questions about anything to do with either of these changes, then please do not hesitate to contact me at tclark@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Clark'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a stylized 'Clark'.

Mr T Clark
Vice Principal