

Changes to A Level - Briefing Sheet 1 – Oct 2014

What is happening to A Levels?

From September 2015 A Levels are changing their format to become linear (all examinations taken at the end of two years), rather than modular qualifications.

Which subjects are changing?

The changes will be happening in two phases:

- **Phase 1 subjects** (first teaching September 2015):
Art & Design (including Photography), Business Studies, Economics, English Language, English Literature, History, Psychology, Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) & Sociology.
- **Phase 2 subjects** (first teaching September 2016)
Drama, Design & Technology, Geography, Languages, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Music, Physical Education & Religious Studies

When will the first exams happen?

Phase	1 st A/S Exams	1 st A Level Exams
Phase 1 Subjects	Summer 2016	Summer 2017
Phase 2 Subjects	Summer 2017	Summer 2018

What is happening to those subjects not on the Phase 1 & 2 list?

These subjects, such as Travel and Tourism and Media Studies are being consulted on by the government over the next year.

What does this change mean for assessment?

At present students take an AS in each subject they do. Students then continue at A2 Level in Yr13. AS & A2 count for 50% each of the full A Level. Once new specification are taught, AS becomes a standalone qualification and **does not** count toward the full A Level.

How will this affect Hellesdon Sixth Form students?

Students will choose four AS subjects as usual. Depending on the individual choice of each student they may or may not take an AS Level in a particular subject at the end of Yr12.

Note: For examinations in 2016 those subjects in Phase 2 will continue on the old specification and AS will still be worth 50% of the full A Level.

Are BTECs changing?

Yes. BTECs will be changing over the next few years to introduce an examination section (previously they have been 100% coursework based).

Where should I go for more information?

Each Exam Board has a dedicated A Level page and you are able to sign up to e-mail newsletters as parents/students.

(The above information is correct at the time of going to print, but will be subject to change as more information is released by exams boards).