

## Changes to A Level - Briefing Sheet 2 - Oct 2016

### 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 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
- **Final Phase subjects** (first teaching September 2017)  
Film Studies, Media Studies, Maths & Further Maths

### When will the first exams happen?

Phase	1 <sup>st</sup> A/S Exams	1 <sup>st</sup> A Level Exams
Phase 1 Subjects	Summer 2016	Summer 2017
Phase 2 Subjects	Summer 2017	Summer 2018
Final Phase Subjects	Summer 2018	Summer 2019

### 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. Depending on the individual choice of each student they will take a minimum of one AS Level in a particular subject at the end of Yr12.

**Note: For examinations in 2017 the Final Phase subjects will continue on the old specification and AS will still be worth 50% of the full A Level.**

### Are BTECs changing?

Yes. BTECs have changed with the introduction of 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 exam boards).*