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Dear Parents,

Thank you for completing the GCSE options for your child earlier this term. The information has been used to build the option blocks and all choices made have been accommodated.

In completing this first part of the timetable task it has struck me that a good number of the pupils have not taken my recommendation to do nine subjects rather than ten. I mention this now as there is still time to remove one subject. You will recall that in my last letter I recommended that the non-GCSE course of P.E. should be chosen to allow 'breathing space' for pupils, particularly those with heavy music, drama or sporting commitments. It is a shame to see pupils ignore this advice and start with ten only to find that they struggle to manage their other commitments and show signs of stress as a result. I am sure you appreciate that the number of GCSEs taken is not an important factor for university entrance or to employers, they are much more interested in the results - clearly nine level 8 or 9 passes is of much more value than ten level 7/8's.

If your child has chosen to pursue ten GCSE subjects, there is time to reconsider if you are concerned about the time commitment for them. All you need do is email either myself or Dr Gareth with the change. You will note in the option blocks below that the non-GCSE course is in Blocks D and G, however if we have a number wishing to make this adjustment we can look at putting it in a third block so don't let that prevent you from indicating the move from ten to nine.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Geography	Chemistry	Art & Design	Drama	Art & Design	Biology	Biology
History	Design Technology	Biology	French	Chemistry	Chemistry	Business Studies
Media Studies	Geography	Business Studies	Physics	Design Technology	Drama	Computer Science
Physics	Latin	Music	Physical Training (non-GCSE)	History		Physical Training (non-GCSE)
Physical Education (GCSE)	Media Studies	Physical Education (GCSE)	Religious Studies	Spanish		
	Physics					
SfL	SfL			EAL	EAL	SfL

Yours sincerely,

*S.V. Pritt-Roberts*

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