

24 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you with regards to your son/daughter's Economics course following the unexpected resignation of Miss Nguyen for personal reasons.

Firstly, thank you for your patience and understanding with us whilst we have been trying to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. I am sure you can appreciate that recruitment of specialist subject staff, especially at Key Stage 5, can be a difficult and lengthy process. Even after a post is advertised externally, the nature of the sector means that teachers wishing to move positions within the academic year are limited in doing so by lengthy contractual periods. Therefore, finding an Economics specialist with no notice has been very difficult indeed.

We have been fortunate to secure the assistance of two academics from Lancaster University, Dr Akmal and Mr Jonuzaj, who have already commenced delivery of lessons. In order to fully safeguard our students, lessons are initially being delivered remotely. However, as soon as DBS clearance is obtained, both teachers will be in school delivering face-to-face lessons.

Dr Akmal and Mr Jonuzaj are being ably supported by Mr Rosbottom, Subject Leader for Business and Economics, and great care is being taken to ensure learning time is not lost, so students can continue with their studies in preparation for their summer exams and not be adversely affected by this situation. There has naturally been a period of transition for the new staff due to the short notice given for them to commence their roles. However, we expect this to be brief.

The success and wellbeing of our students is of utmost importance to us and is driving the decisions we are making. We understand that anxiety about summer examinations and university applications is high and in response we have purchased an additional tutoring programme for all Economics students. All Year 12 and 13 Economics students will very shortly be receiving registration details for an A level catch-up online course with Tutor2U. This course, created by experienced teachers and senior examiners for AQA, is divided into different weeks and represents 30-40 hours of learning time with 139 videos, resources and activities.

We have also purchased a Grade Booster online tuition course for all Year 13 Economics students. This is an online course which provides a series of sequenced and guided videos and supporting resource downloads, all with a clear focus on core knowledge and effective exam technique. Once again this has been created by experienced AQA Economics teachers and examiners and comes highly recommended.

Students will be able to access both courses from school or at home, 24 hours a day and it is hoped that, when combined with the specialist subject support from Dr Akmal and Mr Jonuzaj in lessons, students will feel confident and make the expected progress.

I hope this letter provides some reassurance at this time.

Kind regards,  
Malcolm Sim  
Head of Sixth Form

*Believe.....*