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4 September 2109

Dear Parent/Guardian

At Mascalls Academy we are continuously looking to improve the provision of education by incorporating the latest pedagogical research and evidence based practice, ensuring all pupils here at Mascalls Academy receive the highest quality education something Mr Monk and previously Mr Barnett spoke about. That is why from this September all year 7's will be taught in mixed ability groupings, a practice that we have been using successfully with our GCSE pupils in mathematics allowing the academy to achieve record breaking results over the previous two years.

The research conducted by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that setting and streaming have a negative impact on learning with pupils making 'less progress than pupils taught in mixed attainment classes' (EFF, 2019). Mixed ability grouping leads to an increased self-confidence for all pupils in mathematics *especially* those pupils who would have traditionally been in a lower ability set (Francis et al., 2017). Learning is not a linear process therefore we need to avoid the necessity to pigeonhole pupils at an early stage with regards to possible tiers of entry at a GCSE level.

A pupil's journey in mathematics at Mascalls Academy starts with all pupils following the Maths Mastery programme at key stage three which aims to develop a deep understanding of the concepts and connections through the use of concrete and pictorial materials. When pupils progress into key stage four we continue teaching all except the highest ability in mixed ability grouping something we have embedded into the curriculum over the two previous years, allowing the academy and the mathematics department to have their best ever GCSE results providing more pupils, more opportunities at post 16.

Yours faithfully

N Metcalf
Director of Mathematics