

## A-Level Reforms

### Information for students joining Sixth Form in September 2015

The Government is undertaking a reform of A-Level qualifications with the following intentions:

Changes will:

- make A-Levels more academically challenging
- prepare young people better for the demands of employment and further study
- address the pernicious damage caused by grade inflation and 'dumbing down'
- Will give students, parents, teachers, universities and employers greater confidence in the integrity and reliability of the A-Level qualification system

In addition to a change in content, AS exams will become stand-alone qualifications and will not contribute towards the overall A-Level results. The purpose of the new AS exams is to encourage curriculum breadth and they will remain broadly at their current level of academic rigour. AS exams will still be taken in reformed subjects and universities are likely to continue to make offers based on AS results.

A-Level reforms will be introduced across all academic subjects over a three-year period. The situation for students joining Bourne Grammar School Sixth Form in September 2015 is as follows:

**Reformed Subjects from 2015 – Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Fine Art, History, Physics, and Psychology.**

Students choosing these subjects will sit AS exams at the end of Year 12 and receive a stand-alone AS qualification (Grade A to U). The result achieved at AS level will **not** contribute towards the final A-Level result.

If a student continues to study some or all of these AS subjects to A-Level in Year 13, they will take linear exams at the end of Year 13 based on the syllabus studied during the full two years' course in the Sixth Form. The A-Level grade awarded (Grade A\* to U) will be based on the performance in these final exams only.

**Unchanged subjects from 2015 – Drama & Theatre Studies, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, Italian, Law, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Spanish and Systems & Control.**

Students choosing these subjects will sit AS exams at the end of Year 12 and receive an AS qualification (Grade A to U). The result achieved at AS level will contribute 50% of the marks towards the final A-Level result. A student may choose to resit AS modules in the unchanged subjects during the summer of Year 13.

If a student continues to study these subjects to A-Level in Year 13, they will take modular exams at the end of Year 13 worth 50% of the overall A-Level result (Grade A\* to U).

*Please note that all information is believed to be correct at the time of going to press (11 November 2014).*