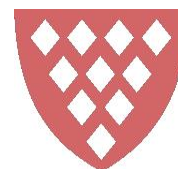


# Kingsbridge Community College

## Student Grouping 2023-24



At Kingsbridge Community College we adopt a range of different ways of grouping students together in different subjects. As a Research School, different departments have used a range of research evidence, as well as in-house pilot studies and action research to arrive at student groupings that are designed to maximise students' progress. Based on research evidence, we do not number our classes to support our ethos that all students will make good or exceptional progress and to reduce the potential negative impact on student's self-perception of being placed in the bottom set. The vast majority of subjects are taught in mixed ability groupings; the rationale for departments that deviate from mixed ability grouping is outlined below.

### **English**

In Year 7, all students are taught in their tutor groups. This allows us to assess students' abilities over the year and give them a common introduction to analytical writing which forms that basis of much of Year 7 curriculum.

In Years 8-11, students are taught in mixed ability groupings which consist of students from a range of tutor groups. Each group contains students with a broad range of abilities. This reflects the fact that the study of English encompasses a broad range of skills, and students often have different strengths and areas for development across these. Within each population, a small number of students who require significant support to access the curriculum are grouped together in the same class. Each teaching group also contains a number of students who have been identified as high prior attaining and in need of additional challenge within the curriculum.

### **Mathematics**

Year 7 are taught in mixed tutor groups within each of the three populations. At the end of Cycle 1 we will make some slight adjustments to these groups so that those students who are requiring support to access the curriculum are grouped together and those that require additional challenge are also grouped together, otherwise the groups remain mixed ability.

In Year 8 and 9 in maths we continue this model of mixed ability groups with groups of students identified in each population as requiring additional support to access the curriculum or additional challenge placed together.

In Key Stage 3, all classes work on the same curriculum and complete common assessment at three points throughout the academic year.

In Year 10 and 11 as we prepare students toward the GCSE examinations we group students based on attainment ensuring they are working towards the examination tier of entry which will ensure they have the opportunity to achieve the highest grade. Currently in each population we have three groups which follow the Higher Tier curriculum and one group which follows the Foundation Tier curriculum. Within the three higher tier groups we continue to run a mixed ability grouping structure with a small group of students grouped for additional support in accessing the Higher Tier curriculum and a small group for additional challenge.

### **Science**

Year 7 are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. Year 8 and 9 have one top set in each side of the population, with all other students being taught in mixed ability groups. Year 10 and 11 also have one top set in each population; these students study the Triple Science course, which enables students to work at the fast pace that is required to complete the Triple Science programme of study. Other students are taught in mixed ability groups and follow the Combined Science course, allowing students time to be able to revisit key concepts and for these to be interleaved through the curriculum to support students' knowledge and understanding.