

26 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

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In session 2014/15, parents, carers and students were consulted on the number of National Qualifications students should sit in S4. This led to a change in the school's presentation policy, where students were then presented for a maximum of 6 subjects in S4 rather than the previous 8.

As part of our ongoing evaluations, we recently consulted with parents, carers, students and staff on how many National Qualifications students should sit in S4. The full consultation process consisted of the following:

- Two information sessions (16th May 2019) for parents/carers to hear the rationale behind the evaluation and the options available in moving forward. These included very open and helpful discussions between parents/carers and the senior management team.
- A survey to all parents following the information evening (closed 24th May 2019)
- An information presentation to students
- Consultation with the Student Council
- A student survey
- Student focus groups
- Staff survey

The outcome of these consultations were as follows:

Students	Opted to move to a maximum of 7 or 8 by a slight majority, with most of these opting for 7
Parents/Carers	Opted to move to a maximum of 7 or 8 by a large majority, with most of these opting for 7
Staff	Opted to move to a maximum of 7 or 8 by a large majority with most of these opting for 8

In moving forward, these results give a clear indication that the majority of our school community would like to increase the maximum number of qualifications that students sit in S4. Breaking this down further, students and parents are overall in favour of a maximum of 7 subjects. We have now taken the views of all on board and will move to a curriculum structure that enables students in S4 to select 7 subjects which they can study at levels 3, 4 or 5. It should be noted that levels 3 and 4 do not have an external examination and students do not have to study all of their subjects at the one level. For example a student may study 5 National 5 subjects and 2 National 4 subjects in S4.

Our next step in this process is to work with staff and students in carefully planning this change. We will have a better understanding of the timeframe involved once we begin this process and will keep you fully updated throughout.

Should you wish to discuss any of this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Allison

Pauline Allison
Head Teacher