



## *Year 9 Learning Groups 2025-2026*

Dear Parents and Carers,

During our Parent Engagement Evening at the start of the academic year, you may recall that we mentioned how students will be moving into new learning groups for Year 9. This allows students to work in different groups for some subjects, prepares them for the further cohort changes that occur at the start of their GCSEs in Year 10 and supports the cohorts' academic and personal development.

We understand that friendships have been made within their current learning groups that students will be keen to retain. As such, in Year 9, students will remain in their current House and in their current tutor group for registration each day. They will also have both breaktime and lunchtime to catch up with their wider social circle. The new learning groups aim to support students' learning across all subject areas, and promote opportunities for new friendships, developing the key Getting Life-Ready 'soft' skills that are so important for further education and future employment.

As you are aware, Year 8 have already been taught in different groups for Maths, PE and Languages this year. Next year, this will extend to Creative Arts as students choose their technology options. As such, the new learning groups detailed here will not apply to these subjects as these departments manage their own learning groups.

We do believe that friendship groups should be inclusive and outward-looking, whilst giving the best opportunities to succeed academically. We aim to ensure students arrive in Year 10 with a broad base of friendships, and a wide support network, to support option choices and the challenges of GCSE. We thank you for your support in encouraging your child to make the most of the Year 9 opportunity to build new friendships and get used to working with a variety of other people.

A lot of care and thought has gone into the new teaching groups, and next week, students will be able to spend time in these new learning groups. Three days of 'team building' activities have been planned for the year group, where students will work in their new learning groups to get to know one another. These activities will take place in their usual morning registration slot, and all other lessons of the day will continue as usual. To introduce this transition to the students, there will be an assembly on Tuesday 18th June when students will be informed of their new learning group.

Thank you for your support in this matter. If you have any questions, please do contact me on [barker-l@beaconsfieldhigh.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:barker-l@beaconsfieldhigh.bucks.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,

**Miss Barker**

Head of Year 8