



Ransom Road
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP12 4JX

Telephone: 01394 385720
mail@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk
www.farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to inform you of changes to the Maths grouping for you son/daughter moving into Year 11.

You may be aware that at GCSE, we have been trialling the grouping of the more able in the year group by gender. The reason for this trial was to improve the GCSE outcomes for target groups of girls and encourage more girls to take Mathematics at A-level.

Although the students have been overwhelmingly positive in their assessment of the trial, our analysis has shown that this method of grouping has led to no significant change in the overall outcomes for either girls or boys. Both continue to perform as well as they did prior to the trial.

More importantly, recent changes to statutory guidance have made it clear that grouping by gender is no longer an acceptable practice. This new guidance asserts that any separation by gender is likely to give rise to unlawful discrimination. As a result of this guidance, along with our seeing no significant academic benefits of grouping by gender, we will be regrouping the students from September. Students will be grouped based on teacher assessment and the progress they have made over the GCSE course.

We will carefully monitor the progress of your son/daughter in their new class and ensure that they are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A Gemmell

Head of Mathematics