19th January 2017

Dear parent/carer,

Re: GCSE Mathematics/Numeracy Results and Next Steps

As you will know our students collected their GCSE results in mathematics and Numeracy today. These are the first set of results for the reformed qualifications which were introduced by Welsh Government in September 2015. We are very pleased with how well our students achieved at this early stage. Overall, 40% of students achieved an A*-A in one of the subjects, while 75% of all grades were at A*-C. This is a result of the commitment and hard work of our students and the fantastic support provided by the mathematics department.

I wish to inform you of our plans moving forward to ensure that all students, irrespective of their outcomes today, are fully supported to achieve their full potential. From Monday 23rd January the timetable and classes will change and students will be placed into one of a range of new groups for their mathematics lessons at school. These will be based on the following

- students who have secured an A*-B in both Numeracy and mathematics and wish to follow A levels in mathematics and/or science;
- students who have secured at least a C grade in Numeracy but are yet to secure at least a C grade in mathematics;
- students who have secured at least a C grade in mathematics but are yet to secure at least a C grade in Numeracy; and
- students who have yet to secure at least a C grade in Numeracy and mathematics.

Students who have secured at least a C grade in both mathematics qualifications and, following agreement with you as parents, do not wish to further improve their grade(s) may undertake supervised independent study to focus on raising their performance in other subjects, such as English and science. To help with the organisation of this, I should be grateful if you would email your permission to Miss Parry, Deputy Head, at parrys@bishopofllandaff.org by Monday 23rd January 2017.

Over the course of the last three years, examination fees have increased by approximately £80,000 per year (at a time when school budgets have been significantly cut year on year) and therefore the school is not able to afford all re-sit costs. Given that a B grade is required for many popular professional routes the school will support re-sit fees to help secure a B grade. However, the school simply does not have the budget to pay for all re-sits and should a student wish to improve a B to an A or A* then we would ask families to cover the cost of this. The exception to this will be for those students who are entitled to a free school meal. If you have any questions about this please contact Ms Ganner, Assistant Head, via ganners@bishopofllandaff.org.

We are committed to ensuring that each student achieves a broad range of qualifications and, in an ever-increasingly competitive employment market, it is essential that all students achieve ‘good’ GCSEs in English, mathematics and science in addition to other subjects. Therefore, your continued support as families is invaluable as we seek to help all our students to achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Belli
Headteacher