



Hinchingbrooke School

Inspiring excellence Fulfilling potential
A DfE Academy with a Specialism in Sport

20th February 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

English Bacallaureate Information

With the Key Stage 4 Options process well underway I thought it would be useful to clarify the situation regarding the English Bacallaureate following a major policy announcement by Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, regarding GCSEs on 7 February.

Mr Gove announced that some of the proposals made last September would not now be enforced. In particular, the plan to rename GCSEs as EBCs (English Bacallaureate Certificates) has been ditched. Also, there will not be one single exam board responsible for producing an exam in each of the subjects, but we are to continue with the current model of different boards writing an exam syllabus and assessment materials in each subject. These reforms were planned for first teaching in September 2015 (i.e. they would first affect our current Year 7 cohort).

I wanted to make it clear though that the concept of an English Bacallaureate, comprising a C grade or better in English, Maths, Science, History or Geography and a foreign language, **is not affected by this announcement**. Thus the information you received in the Options Booklet and on the Options evening itself is still entirely valid. Some confusion may have arisen given that it is the EBCs as a replacement for GCSEs that have been scrapped, and not the concept of an English Bacallaureate.

I hope that this makes the situation clear, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any further information. You can access Michael Gove's speech in the House of Commons at <http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00221416/curriculum,-exam-and-accountability-reform>

Yours faithfully,

Lee Walker

Vice Principal Achievement