

## Bishop Stopford School Sixth Form

Planning for A level groups is a complex activity, because the number of students who will attend Bishop Stopford School in Year 12 is not known until the start of September. It is not unusual to receive applications from as many as 360 students, while in reality about 200 will actually take up their places. While we use our extensive experience to predict numbers in groups, it is not possible to ensure that those predictions will become reality. Our suite of over 20 subjects is provisionally on offer, but this offer only becomes certain when numbers in groups make such provision financially viable. Where there is under-subscription or over-subscription, students are required to follow reserve choices, this will be communicated clearly to all students affected after the enrolment period.

### Under-subscription

A Level courses are run dependent on viable numbers. Subjects attracting small numbers (i.e. fewer than 15 students) will be reviewed. Contact time may be reduced, Year 12 and Year 13 lessons timetabled concurrently or the subject withdrawn to ensure viability. While we offer over 20 subjects, not all combinations are possible. Subject combination information will be issued during induction in June.

### Over-subscription

Students who wish to study a subject which attracts, on average a class size of over 27 students, and where there is no capacity to put on a further group, will be asked to select a reserve choice. In addition, some subject combinations may not be possible, due to timetabling constraints, and students will then be asked to choose between two subjects and identify another choice.

*Where oversubscription exists, the procedure for selecting students to follow a reserve choice course is as follows:*

- 1. All students who have selected the option will be invited to take up their reserve choice if they have no strong preference.*
- 2. If the number of students taking up their reserve choice removes oversubscription, no further students will be required to follow a reserve choice.*
- 3. If however, numbers still need to be reduced, a process of random selection will take place. NB. EHCP and/or who were in receipt of Pupil Premium funding / disadvantaged, will have their places on the course concerned guaranteed.*

The final decision regarding students' places on courses lies with the school. A waiting list for each course will be held until 1<sup>st</sup> October in line with our over-subscription criteria. Plans for Year 12 courses at Bishop Stopford School are provisional, dependent on group sizes and timetabling constraints. All rights to modify the provisional curriculum lie with the school.