

24th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We have decided to change the GCSE Drama qualification that your child is studying. We feel that moving to a Btec Performing Arts course will better meet the needs of the students and give them a better chance of achieving a high grade.

We also cannot ignore the data that we have currently, that shows that students at The Dean Academy, not only perform better in vocational subjects, but also achieve higher standards. Therefore we have decided to follow the BTEC Performing Arts course; all of the work that the students have completed so far will be valid for this qualification and it offers them a far more accessible curriculum whilst maintaining a strong connection to the processes of creating, devising, rehearsing, performing and evaluating. There will still be an exam which will be primarily focused on performance. Students will be required to devise a performance and perform this for an external examiner on video, alongside submitting a piece of written work. However, a question and answer paper under exam conditions is not part of this course.

The BTEC course will still enable your child to achieve the equivalent to a GCSE grade. The qualification is also widely recognised and will not hinder your son/daughter in any applications for A Levels or further education.

At this point, we feel that this is the best route to pursue, taking into account the experience that the students have had so far in Key Stage 3 and the needs of a diverse group. Please be assured that all decisions have been taken with the best interests of the group at heart.

If you wish to discuss any of this further, I would be more than happy to speak with you, and you are welcome to contact me at the school.

In the meantime, the students are working hard and are currently engaging well with the content of the course and their qualification.

I appreciate your ongoing support and will keep you updated as to their progress.

Yours sincerely

**Kathryn Rodway**  
Director of Performance Faculty  
Teacher of P.E. and Dance