

October 2017



Dear Parents,

Bury Grammar School Curriculum Model

We are delighted to let you know that, following much research and discussion, we have completed the whole school Curriculum Review which we have been working on for the past 12 months. The result is an enhanced curriculum model throughout the School to **strengthen further the quality of education** we offer – ensuring breadth alongside academic challenge, to enable pupils to obtain the **very best examination results** of which they are capable and to open doors to even **greater opportunities** in the future.

As you are no doubt aware, there have been far-reaching national educational changes recently which have affected GCSE and A Level courses, and also Key Stages 1 and 2. External examinations have become *significantly more challenging* than in previous years – both in terms of content and skills. For example, questions which we might once have seen on A Level papers might now appear on GCSE papers. Higher grades are required at GCSE and A Level for entry onto good university courses and assessment is more focussed on terminal examinations, rather than on coursework.

We reacted at the earliest possible stage to these educational changes and, for the first time in the School's history, the whole Bury Grammar School curriculum has been reviewed from Pre-School through to the Sixth Form. This year-long process has allowed us to devise a new **'all through' curriculum** which best prepares our children for the challenges which lie ahead and at the same time remains true to our tradition of providing an independent, unique and inspirational **Grammar School** education. This new curriculum model will allow our pupils to meet the changing demands of Higher Education and of life beyond BGS; it will also deliver an **enhanced extra-curricular and co-curricular offering**, to maintain our strong tradition of **nurturing fully-rounded individuals** who have the edge when it comes to embracing life's opportunities.

We would like to share our vision and strategy for our new curriculum with you; please find details relating to how we propose to do so below.

Curriculum Information Evening – Tuesday 7th November at 7pm

We would like to talk you about the Curriculum Model that we have devised and are inviting you to our **Curriculum Information Evening** on **Tuesday 7th November** between **7pm** and 8pm in the BGSB hall to formally present our plans to you. There will be plenty of time for questions and for discussion with senior leaders in the Library following the formal presentations.

Principal, Headmistress: **Mrs J Anderson BA PGCE Med**

Headmaster: **Mr D Cassidy BSc**

Tel No **0161 696 8600** www.burygrammar.com

The Bury Grammar Schools Trustee Limited (company number 06612259) as trustee of Bury Grammar Schools Charity (registered charity number 526622).

Registered office: Farraday House, Bridge Road, Bury, Lancashire BL9 0HG. Registered in England and Wales

To *book your place* at this event, please email Mrs Jones-Hatcher at ahatcher@burygrammar.com by Friday 20th October. We would very much welcome notice of any specific questions that you may have in advance of the evening so that we can incorporate these into our presentations; please also forward these to Mrs Jones-Hatcher.

How to contact us before the Curriculum Information Evening

As you are aware, good communication between home and school is a priority for us and we will always welcome contact with you as parents. Should you wish to talk to us prior to 7th November, we would be happy to hear your thoughts and delighted to answer any immediate questions that you may have this week. Heads, Deputy Heads and Senior Leaders will be free to talk to you on Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th this week between 4pm and 5pm, and may also be free at other times. The Heads will also be available at various points over the half-term break. *To arrange to talk to us, please email Mrs Jones-Hatcher.*

Information

Following the Curriculum Information Evening, we will publish a Curriculum Information Booklet and FAQ document which will be sent home to the parents of all our pupils. You will also find attached to this letter two documents which we hope will be helpful:

- **Bury Grammar School Curriculum – from September 2018**
- **Year Group Guide to the new Curriculum**

Year 9s already have an Options Evening scheduled in for 22nd November; Y8 Parents' Evening on 27th November will now incorporate an Options Evening for them as well. (Year 8 parents – please find attached a further letter for you with more information about the three year GCSE course.)

At BGS, we pride ourselves on offering excellent options and careers advice, and, in addition to both Options Evenings, pupils will follow a form period programme with guidance about choosing their GCSE options; they will attend Careers Presentations; and furthermore, each pupil will have a one-to-one options interview with a senior member of staff.

It is our commitment to offering the highest possible quality of education that is the primary motivation behind our new curriculum model and we are confident that this will strengthen the quality of educational experiences and prospects of our pupils while maintaining everything that is so special about our school community and a BGS education.

We very much look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Anderson, Principal



Mr D Cassidy, Headmaster



Mrs V Leaver, Head of Teaching and Learning



Mr T Nicholson, Deputy Head (Curriculum)

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