



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

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12th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 9 Attainment-Based Setting

After a review of student progress, we have decided to transition Year 9 from mixed-ability groups to attainment-based sets. This change ensures that every child is taught at a pace that is "just right" for them, providing both the necessary support and the appropriate level of challenge.

Benefits of this transition:

- **Targeted Support:** Smaller groups and scaffolding for those who need to build confidence in core concepts.
- **Greater Challenge:** Opportunities for students ready to explore advanced topics at a faster pace.
- **Precise Teaching:** Teachers can tailor resources more effectively to the specific needs of each class.

Key Information:

- **Fluidity:** Sets are not fixed. We will review groupings regularly based on assessments and classwork, allowing students to move as they develop.
- **Consistency:** The high standard of teaching and the curriculum remain the same across all sets.
- **Wellbeing:** We are discussing these changes sensitively with students to ensure they feel confident and supported.

Next Steps

The new structures will take effect on **Monday 23rd February**. You will be able to view your child's updated timetable on Arbor from this date.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's tutor via the academy contact form.

Yours faithfully

K Biddle

Mrs Biddle

Vice Principal



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