



13th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to give you a brief update about the outcome of the Government's Post-16 Curriculum Review for vocational education.

The previous Government had planned to introduce a rolling programme of changes to vocational courses (such as BTECs) and introduce alternative qualifications (AAQs).

We are pleased to share with you the news that came from the review yesterday (12th December), that any changes have been delayed to allow for the Department for Education to have a robust approach to the implementation of any new qualifications; therefore, all vocational courses we currently offer for students in the Sixth Form will continue to run from 2025-27, without any changes.

The courses that were scheduled to change but are now remaining as the same offer include:

- BTEC Health and Social Care – single **and** double award
- BTEC IT – single award
- BTEC Applied Science – single award

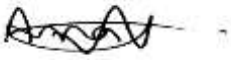
Any Year 11 students who have applied for a place in the Sixth Form and selected any of the above courses (advertised as AAQs) will be able to follow the BTEC course instead; if any applicants to study Health and Social Care wish to change their options to follow a double award please contact the Sixth Form team and we will update the information on Applicaa on the student's behalf; please email sixth.form@mrus.co.uk.

This has been a tense time for Sixth Form providers as we waited for the outcome of the review, and for the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School, we are particularly pleased to be able to continue to offer the same courses in 2025, as the results for our vocational subjects are among the best in the Borough, with a 'positive value added' indicating that students make a lot of progress on the vocational courses and are therefore better able to access a range of pathways, post-18.

The link to the Government's review: https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/20323058751634-The-outcomes-of-the-Review-of-Qualifications-Reform-at-Level-3-in-England?fbclid=IwY2xjawHH98xleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHVCOpUtmE-ycXBKo-uyfYspBoZjm6wYaJTJNi35ij4DOuZ_zj2rN2Ek-oQ_aem_j1Rs1X17qwGeTaNE28bxmA

If you have any questions about the provision of vocational courses, please do not hesitate to get in touch. There is likely to be further information coming through in the media over the next few days and we wanted to get in touch to let you know that we are positive about the postponement of the new courses and believe that this is in the best interest of our future Sixth Form students.

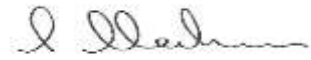
Yours faithfully



Mrs A Vallance
Assistant Headteacher/
Director of Sixth Form



Mr I Nicholls
Head of Sixth Form



Mrs A Henderson
Assistant Head of Sixth Form