

## Dudley Academies Trust

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Chair of Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams  
Chief Executive: Jo Higgins



23/10/20

Dear parent/carer

### **Dudley Academies Trust - Curriculum Update**

We are pleased to announce that following a comprehensive consultation programme with our Principals, Senior Leadership Team and teachers we have changed our Curriculum model. Learners will now benefit from a three year Curriculum model (Years 7-9) and a two year GCSE programme.

As you will appreciate, we are always keen to explore the best practice nationally. A significant number of Trusts and individual secondary schools have also moved to a two year GCSE programme. This is also the approach that Ofsted refers to favourably in its framework.

One of the many advantages of a three year curriculum for Years 7-9 is that our Year 9 learners will now benefit from an extra year during which they will experience a broad and balanced curriculum, helping them to decide upon their future career path. This extra year will help our Year 9 learners to make informed choices when selecting their option subjects that they will study at GCSE. During this pivotal year the Character Education Programme will also be introduced as part of the Curriculum. The Character Education programme has been designed to develop learners' communication skills and consequently, prepare them for studying at GCSE level and their future careers.

We will be liaising closely with Year 9 learners and their parents/carers regarding the option decision making process in the near future.

With regards to the curriculum change and the transition to a two year GCSE programme, please let me assure you that this has been undertaken following a comprehensive consultation process including our Principals, Senior Leadership Team and teachers. The decision has also been approved by the Trust board who fully support the rationale behind it.

Thank you for your continued support this academic year.

Yours faithfully

Jo Higgins  
Chief Executive



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