



July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing regarding some changes that we are making to our Year 9 curriculum from September 2024. As we have started our partnership work with Delta it has become clear that to maximise the opportunities in curriculum design, student experiences and shared assessments we need to align our curriculum closer to the Delta model. This means that we will no longer run the gateway process for Year 8 students and instead continue with a longer, three-year Key Stage 3 and a commensurate shortening of Key Stage 4 / GCSE to 2 years. In practice Year 9 students will now study a curriculum that matches their studies in Year 7 & 8. As we have worked closely with our colleagues in the Delta Trust it has become clear that fully aligning our curriculum with Delta Trust schools will produce significant long-term benefits. These will be for our students and staff in terms of opportunities we can offer our students; curriculum design, assessment opportunities and outcomes for students at GCSE. We felt this move needed to be implemented from September 2024 to allow our staff the opportunity to fully implement this new curriculum model.

As a school we strive to do the best we can for the children in our care and to be outward looking to spot the trends and changes that mould the educational landscape. Over the past two years there have been many discussions about the nature of the curriculum in schools, especially the wish to ensure the broad and balanced foundations provided by Key Stage 3 before the specialism that the GCSE curriculum affords. The key to the debate has been the length of each stage in the secondary curriculum. As you will appreciate there is no simple answer, but we have been researching and considering our answer for a couple of years. As we collaborate alongside our colleagues at Delta and utilise their considerable expertise in curriculum design, we believe the time is right to change to a three-year Key Stage 3.

Why we believe that now is the time for change

- The latest educational research highlights the benefits of giving students a broad and balanced curriculum for as long as possible before specialising at GCSE.
- Research suggests that by giving pupils more time to develop their knowledge and skills across a range of subjects at Key Stage 3, this will better equip them for the rigours at Key Stage 4 / GCSE.
- Many schools around the country now are delivering a three-year Key Stage 3 including those we are working closely with.
- Scalby staff can collaborate closely with colleagues across other schools to develop curriculums and assessments that further engage and support students in our school.

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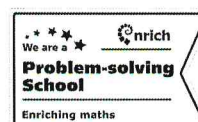
Fieldstead Crescent, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 6TH

Headteacher: Mr C. Robertson

Part of Coast and Vale Learning Trust

Registered office: Fieldstead Crescent, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 6TH

Registered in England No. 10265276





What are our reasons for change?

- This change will allow a greater period for students to consolidate their knowledge, skills and passion at Key Stage 3 in preparation for the demands of GCSE.
- A three-year Key Stage 3 curriculum will help us ensure that our pupils are offered the best curriculum and enrichment curriculum across the full amount of time. Three years ensures that we have allocated enough time for our children to explore the core subject areas deeply enough to equip them with the foundational knowledge that is important for future success. The added time will allow for additional content and themes to be explored and for key concepts to be deeply embedded.
- Our aim is to instil a love of learning and passion for each subject. This change will allow pupils to have a deeper understanding of all the subjects so they can make more informed, ambitious option choices as they prepare for their GCSEs and beyond.

What will the changes mean?

- Key Stage 3 will now encompass Years 7, 8 & 9. Your child will continue to study the full breadth of subjects that we offer for longer and commence the GCSE curriculum in September 2025.
- The Year 9 curriculum is now being re-written to ensure solid foundation for GCSE and will allow us to align with other schools we are working closely with. Our monitoring of students' attainment will permit early identification where there are gaps in subject knowledge because of time missed in school. This will give us the opportunity to put in tailor-made interventions and additional support to ensure a smooth progression to GCSE. We are confident this approach will lead to better outcomes for pupils.
- As we are changing our curriculum from September 2024 this means that your child can look forward to the additional time to explore their full curriculum, I know for a number of parents this will be a relief as they have commented that the end of Year 8 is too early to choose pathways. Students will have the opportunity to select the same option choices in Year 10 that they chose this year.
- This change will not reduce the breadth of qualifications being offered at GCSE. Students will still have access to 9 qualifications as they would have done under the previous model.

We will be letting pupils know of this change by video during mentor time this week so that they understand how this will affect them. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who did write into school during previous consultations and continue to provide their opinions of changes. When we undertook our initial consultation on this matter last year, we got a wide spectrum of responses from vehemently opposed to absolute support. All responses gave articulate reasons for their standpoint which, in this multifaceted question, are all equally correct and valid. As I said at the

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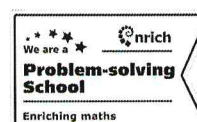
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Scalby School

being the best we can be

start of this letter, the complex nature of this debate means there is no right or wrong answer; rather we must be guided by the best course of action for all pupils in our care. We now passionately believe that lengthening Key Stage 3 is the right and proper course of action and this will happen from September 2024.

Yours Sincerely

Mr C Robertson
Head Teacher

Mr R Davis
Deputy Head Teacher

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