

The Sixth Form College Colchester

A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white lace-trimmed top, is smiling and writing in a notebook with a blue pen. The background is slightly blurred, showing another person in a white shirt.

A LEVEL REFORM 2017

www.colchsfc.ac.uk

National changes to A Levels

Since 2000 A Levels have been modular courses, meaning that some exams are taken in the first year of the course and some in the second and with some opportunities for re-sits. The first year, or AS year, has contributed 50% of the marks to the overall A Level grade and the second year, or A2 year, has contributed the other 50%.

In a 3-year rolling programme which started in September 2015, A levels are changing and becoming linear, meaning that all exams are taken at the end of two years of study. AS Levels will continue as separate qualifications but the marks from them will no longer count towards the final A Level. All other subjects are due to also become linear in 2017.

Subjects that were reformed in 2015:

- Art (Fine Art)
- Art History
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- English Language & Literature
- History
- Photography (Art)
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sculpture (Year 2 only)
- Sociology
- Textiles (Art)

Subjects that were reformed in September 2016:

- Dance
- Drama and Theatre
- Geography
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

Subjects reforming in September 2017 are:

- Accounting
- Archaeology
- Classical Civilisation
- Design & Technology
- Electronics
- Environmental Science
- Film Studies
- Further Mathematics
- Geology
- Government & Politics
- History of Art
- Law
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music Technology
- Philosophy
- Statistics

How is The Sixth Form College responding to this change?

We believe there are many advantages to the current system where students choose AS subjects at the start of their first year (usually four subjects) and then decide at the start of their second year (once they have their AS results) which of those subjects they want to do the full A Level in (usually three of the four subjects originally chosen).

Therefore, for 2017, students will continue to choose AS subjects when they start and will only have to decide at the start of their second year which subjects to study at A Level. The College will enter all students for the AS examinations.

We know that many students only finalise their full A Level subject choices at the start of Year 2. We therefore think it is really important that you are able to study four subjects in Year 1 before deciding your programme for Year 2.

- There is a large step up from GCSE to A Level study.
- Taking AS exams at the end of your first year gives an excellent insight into what it is like to sit exams at advanced level so you know how hard you need to work to get the grades you need.
- AS exams will give you a goal to work towards and an incentive to work hard from the outset.
- AS grades will give you a clear idea of how well you are likely to perform in each subject at A Level to help you choose subjects in which you are likely to achieve the highest grades.
- AS grades will help you to decide which university course and employment programme is the best for you to apply to.
- Universities and employers like our approach as they can see how you have performed at AS in all of our subjects.
- You will receive recognition for your achievements in your first year.

With further subject changes planned over the coming years the College will continue to make decisions in the best interest of students and keep you informed of our plans.

For Further information please see the courses link on our website www.colchsfc.ac.uk

If you have any immediate questions with regards to this then please contact our Admissions department: admissions@colchsfc.ac.uk



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