



What do I need to know about the changes to A Levels from 2016?

What's happening nationally?

- Over the period from 2015 to 2018, A Levels are being reformed.
- The new A Levels, called 'linear' A Levels, are two-year courses examined at the end of two years.
- The older-style courses, termed 'legacy' A Levels, are examined both at the end of Year 12 (AS exam) and Year 13 (A2 exam). The final grade is made up of a combination of the two exams.
- There will be less coursework in the linear A Levels, so teachers and students will need to increase their focus on the development of examination skills and the retention of knowledge over a longer period.

Which subjects will be reformed, and when?

A Levels that were reformed in 2015 and are already linear:

- Art, Craft and Design
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Economics
- English Language
- English Language and Literature
- English Literature
- History
- Physics
- Psychology

Additional A Levels that will become linear in September 2016

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

A Levels that will become linear in September 2017

- Maths & Further Maths
- Product Design

These will be taught and examined as AS and A2 for students starting courses this September.

Which subjects will be reformed, and when? (continued)

No change confirmed:

- Health & Social Care
- Applied Science

The timetable for these subjects is yet to be decided by the government. For September 2016, these courses will still be legacy and will, therefore, also be delivered as AS and A2 courses.

BTEC Subjects:

Our BTECs (Business Studies and Creative Media) are two-year courses, assessed by coursework with no final exam.

How might these changes affect my subject choices and Sixth Form experience?

- You should always base your choices on your strengths, interests and any career plans you may have. You will be well taught and supported whichever courses you study.
- Because of a number of changes nationally, most students will be studying three subjects at A Level from September 2016.
- Students who perform highly at GCSE (average grade A*-A) will be encouraged to study four subjects. Some other students may opt to study four subjects. You will receive advice and guidance to help you decide what will be best for you.
- You will sit AS exams at the end of Year 12 in the subjects that are still legacy courses.
- You will not sit AS exams in the reformed A Levels. This is because the AS will no longer count towards the final A Level grade. This will free up more time for teaching and learning in Year 12.
- If you study three subjects, you will generally be timetabled for 12 periods of Private Study a fortnight, which will be supervised.

Enrichment

All students will be expected to engage fully in our Enrichment Programme as part of their Sixth Form studies. Full details of this can be found in the Sixth Form prospectus (available on www.ckermouthschool.org).

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