



West Moors Middle School

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10th June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to share the arrangements we are implementing for our Year 5 pupils to transition effectively into Year 6 in September. Next term, in Year 5 and 6 only, pupils will be organised into mixed-ability tutor groups for their foundation subjects while continuing to be grouped by ability for Maths and English, as they have been in Year 5. This decision has been made with careful consideration and is based on both educational research and our own observations of student development. Furthermore, we believe this approach offers the following significant benefits for your child's educational and personal growth:

- **Enhanced Social Skills and Collaboration:** Mixed-ability groups foster an environment where pupils can learn to collaborate with a diverse range of peers. This mirrors real-world scenarios, encouraging them to develop essential social skills such as communication, empathy, and teamwork. These interactions are invaluable in helping students understand different perspectives and build stronger, more inclusive relationships.
- **Increased Motivation and Confidence:** Being part of a mixed-ability group can be highly-motivating for all students. Those who might find some subjects challenging can benefit from peer-support and different approaches to learning, while those who excel can reinforce their knowledge by helping others. This dynamic can boost confidence, as students feel valued for their unique contributions and efforts.
- **Exposure to Varied Learning Styles:** Mixed-ability settings expose students to a wider range of learning strategies and viewpoints. This variety can enhance their overall understanding and adaptability, helping them become more versatile learners. Such an environment encourages students to think critically and creatively - skills that are crucial for lifelong learning.
- **Balanced Academic Development:** While maintaining ability groups for Maths and English ensures that students receive the targeted instruction they need in these core subjects, mixed-ability groups for foundation subjects provide a balanced approach. This structure supports academic development across the curriculum, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to excel in a broad range of areas.
- **Increased self-esteem:** By mixing ability groups, we reduce the likelihood of students feeling labelled based on their perceived abilities. This promotes a healthier learning environment where every child feels included and encouraged to participate fully.

Moreover, we are delighted to share that all our Year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to spend the day with their new Year 6 teachers on our Transfer Day on Friday 28th June for which further details will shortly follow.

We are confident that this approach will provide a more enriching and supportive learning experience for your child. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Watkins, Assistant Headteacher, via the school office (office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Dr Craddock

Cc Mrs Watkins



Thriving to Achieve our Best – Together
Head Teacher: Dr D Craddock PhD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH



