



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

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21st September 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

This letter is reaching you due to the fact that you are currently studying 4 A levels with us. If you have already opted to drop one of these subjects then please feel free to stop reading at this point.

At Beths we are committed to ensuring not only our students get the best grades possible, but also get the best advice about next steps on to university or apprenticeships.

In almost all cases we do not recommend students taking 4 A levels through into Year 13. The following are some reasons for this.

- 4 A levels means not only an entire subject's extra work, but also 7 double lessons per fortnight of study time which you do not have access to.
- No university asks for 4 A levels as their entry requirements. However if a student does 4 A levels the university may make an offer that requires all 4 (e.g. AAAA rather than A*AA).
- You should know, or at least have a good idea about, what you want to study at university level. You shouldn't need 4 subjects to 'keep your options open' for too long. If you are still unsure about pathways they should discuss this with their form tutor or book an appointment with our Careers Advisor, Mrs Blyghton (msblyghton@beths.bexley.sch.uk)
- It may also be the case that you are studying a language and want to continue in order to be able to do a year abroad at university, but as this is not a requirement it should be carefully considered and we discourage it unless the students is very able.
- Finally, if a university offer is A*AA, AAAA is still missing the offer. We have had this happen to students before who missed Oxbridge places.

One reason for having 4 options is if you're applying for 2 subjects at UCAS (for example, medicine x4 and then filling the fifth slot with something else) and you need all 4 subjects to meet all the entry requirements - medicine **and** engineering, for example.

All of this being said we are aware some of you may decide to continue with 4 courses. This is absolutely your decision and we will support you throughout the entirety of the process.

At any point if you have any concerns or questions please contact either Mr Parkes as Head of Year 12, Ms Pells as Top Universities and Oxbridge/Medics coordinator, or myself. If you do decide to drop one subject, please ensure you have checked through your intended university offers. If and when a decision is made, please email Ms Blackwell (msblackwell@beths.bexley.sch.uk) to confirm which subject you wish to drop.

Best wishes,

Mr Tom Beaney ,

Head of Sixth Form