



The Henry Cort Community College

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Our ref: JDP/LCD

11 January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

Sports Science Consultation

We are writing to inform you of a recent government change to the Sports Science OCR qualification that <StudentName> has been studying since September.

Currently, Year 9 sports science students have been working towards a new OCR specification, which is scheduled to be assessed in 2024. New specifications are typically brought in every 5 years, and they are the first year group to study this new curriculum. Unfortunately, we were notified on 10 December 2021 that it will no longer count as a separate award from the existing Vcert PE qualification that all students study at Henry Cort. For more information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-4-qualifications-discount-codes-and-point-scores>

Previously students who took both Sports Science and the Vcert could count them as two separate awards, but as of 2024 they are going to “discount” against one another. If we continue with our existing plan, students would only to be able to count their best grade from either in their final attainment 8 score, and not both. You may find the following video helpful and understand how attainment 8 scores are counted:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWAV1WUbsLo&ab_channel=AQA

This may cause an issue when students apply for college placements that use average point scores as an entry requirement. The college has raised concerns about this change to the Department for Education, but it is a decision unlikely to be reversed.

The new specification OCR course comes into effect in the Summer of 2023, meaning that after this date the qualification would finish being credited if the Vcert has also been taken. We are proposing to counteract this by moving students to the older syllabus, which the college is very experienced with teaching and has an outstanding track record of previous results. **This would however, mean current year 9 students would have to complete the course before the Summer 2023 deadline** in effect finishing a year earlier, by the end of year 10.

We have carefully reviewed the timetable and assessed whether the remaining allocated hours of learning time is enough to make this happen without disadvantaging the students. Whilst recognising that this is not ideal, it is the college’s position that it is in the student’s best interest to study the older specification by the Summer 2023, and drop the newer specification course. This will enable students to count both qualifications. The work that students have already completed in their first term can still be used as evidence towards the old specification, which means none of it will be wasted. Furthermore, by completing the

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course a year early, it would mean that during year 11 students would not have to sit the sports science exams, and could focus more of their revision time in other subjects.

Students would however still be timetabled for sports science in Year 11, but this time would now be spent doing various practical level 1/2 AQA unit awards. These non-GCSE qualifications would still link to their course, would broaden student's skill sets and give them further qualifications in sports related activities to take onto future colleges/employers. For example [108213 VOLUNTEER SPORT LEADER](#). There is some flexibility with which units are completed, but we are expecting the whole class to visit Fareham Leisure Centre and local outward bounds centres as part of this programme. Please note AQA unit awards cannot be included in the college's official results, nor could students use them in their overall attainment 8 scores.

We are inviting feedback on this change. Please email JDP@henrycort.org to confirm you are either happy with the proposal, have any questions, or would like prefer your child to continue with the original plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Plomer', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mr J Plomer
Deputy Head of Science and PE Faculty