



October 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We write to you regarding a positive change we have made to one of the courses your child is studying. At the moment, your child is studying 'GCSE Business Education' and our intention is to move the students over to the qualification 'Technical Award in Business and Enterprise'. We have reviewed the national picture for these qualifications and have found that the technical award has an equivalent standing to the GCSE, and so offers all the same advantages for future study and life chances, but students generally perform better as it is linked more greatly to the reality of Business rather than studying just the theory. As an academy, we have reviewed all of the current achievement grades for students on the GCSE course and feel this would give your child an advantage and, most importantly, mean they leave Great Barr Academy with a better grade for Business and so a brighter future. Last year, the technical award had a 70% pass rate, with almost half of students achieving a merit or distinction (the equivalent of a strong pass or higher at GCSE).

You won't need to do anything with regards to this; the academy will simply start teaching the new course and all of the knowledge gained in Year 10 will stand the students in good stead for this exciting new opportunity. The students have been briefed on this qualification today and the excellent support we can offer them which wasn't available with the previous course.

We feel this decision allows us to offer the very best to your child and ensures they will have the very best opportunities to succeed. If you wish to discuss this with a member of staff, please contact Mr Barker or Mrs Hunt via main reception on 0121 366 6611.

Yours faithfully,

Mr L Barker
Deputy Head

Mrs M Hunt
Assistant Head

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