

## Why we teach an academic GCSE curriculum

‘We want our pupils to go on to be the authors of their own life stories not the subjects of them’.

If we are going to be able to look our pupils in the eye and say with confidence we have prepared you well for the next stage in your life, then we have to help our pupils achieve good results in subjects that matter. We will be selling them short if they leave us having achieved good results on courses that no-one really thinks much of.

When our pupils leave us at 16 their most valuable ‘passport’ to future educational success is a set of good GCSE results including ‘hard’ subjects like French or Spanish, History, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. If we allow or encourage our pupils to drop these subjects because they are not good at them and let them study subjects that they find easier then we will be selling them short and in all likelihood be restricting their options in future life.

Much better we think to say to pupils: yes this is hard but you can do and we will help you do it.

We think that is no coincidence that we our NEET (not in education, employment or training) figure is very low (4%).

