

Setting in Key Stage 3:

When you see your child's timetable on Class Charts, you will notice class codes next to each subject. This infographic explains how, when and why we set students in each subject:

Year 7 (Autumn)

In September of year 7, all classes in all subjects are taught in **mixed ability** grouping. We do this so that we can get to know the students, and find out their knowledge, skills, strengths, and areas for development in all subjects. The 'class code' at this stage is nothing more than just a number - for example 7a4 will just mean 'form group number 4'



All subjects - mixed ability

Year 7 (Spring)

By the end of the first term, some subjects will have gathered a lot of information about the students, and will begin to group them by ability. Maths will normally change the setting by October half-term, and English, science and humanities (geography, history and PRE) will also put students into **ability groups** by the time students return in January. For these subjects, the 'class code' will represent their ability set - 7a1 and 7b1 would be the highest sets.



English, maths, science, humanities - ability sets

For Spanish and all other practical subjects, students remain in mixed ability grouping. This is to allow for all students to develop their language development, and practical/performative skills in art, ICT, music, PE and technology, and allow our timetable and staffing capacity to offer a broad and balanced mix of subjects. For these subjects, the 'class code' will still represent their original form group number (for example 7a4).



Spanish and practical subjects - mixed ability

Year 8 (Autumn)

At the start of year 8, setting is reviewed in English, maths, science, and humanities with any changes being made to ensure that students are in the right group for their developing ability. Spanish will also put students into ability sets by the start of year 8. All the practical subjects will still teach classes in mixed ability. 'Class codes' will be a mixture of ability setting and mixed ability. This can sometimes cause confusion if your child is in set 2 for one subject, and appears to be in set 4 for a different one.



English, maths, science, humanities, Spanish - ability sets



Practical subjects - mixed ability

What does this mean about the quality of education my child is receiving?

At Forge, we are proud of our Key Stage 3 curriculum and its ambition. All children have the same curriculum goals, the same entitlement and we have high expectations of what we want our students to know, and to be able to do. In mixed ability lessons, our staff 'teach to the top', stretching and challenging our most able students, and providing support and scaffold for all to differentiate the work where appropriate so that all students of all abilities can make progress.