



Introduction:

There has been a significant amount of coverage in the media about the major changes to A-levels. We have received a lot of questions about how the A-level reforms are progressing and the impact they will have on students.

This booklet brings together the key A-level reform implications for students, parents and staff in schools.

We aim to work in partnership to develop a sound understanding of the changes and how we plan to implement them effectively within the A-level Centre at Cornwall College St Austell.

This booklet will answer the important questions:

- What do the reforms mean for you?
- How are we preparing for the changes?
- What are the benefits and implications of the reforms?
- What does this mean for teachers, parents and students?



"We are committed to keeping everyone informed so please feel free to contact me for more information."

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A St Austell student is aiming for the 2020 Olympic Games, after securing a scholarship to study maths at Loughborough University in September.

Jack Wightman, 18, studies A-levels at Cornwall College St Austell and is currently the under 20s county champion in 400m and finished fourth in the Senior Boys English Schools National Championships. This year

Jack intends to better his performance and have the perfect summer with a top three place nationally in the 400m and three A* grades in his exams.

Jack, whose inspiration is Lord Coe, needs to get two A grades and one B to take up his scholarship in September for his open maths degree.

Jack started running by chance four years ago when he was beaten in a race by a friend who trained with Newquay and Par Athletic Club. Determined to improve his style and time, Jack joined the club and has been training daily improving year after year. Jack explained: "I broke the county championship record for the 200m in Par last month and want to take it to the top, keep going with running and see how it goes. I'm at the stage now where if I improve again I will be starting to get towards international level. If I keep going for the two to three years at Loughborough then the Olympics may be in reach!"

The A-levels you can study at Cornwall College St Austell are;

- Applied Science
- Art & Design (Fine Art)
- Art & Design (Graphic Design)
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Economics
- English Language & Literature
- English Language
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French
- Further Maths
- Geography
- Geology
- German
- Government & Politics
- History
- Law
- Maths
- Media Studies
- Physical Education
- Photography
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish

For more information on courses call 0845 22 32 567

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A-LEVEL REFORMS FAQs

A-level Centre

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MAKING LEARNING WORK
THE CORNWALL COLLEGE GROUP



What are the reforms?

From September 2015, A-levels will be changing; the content will be updated and the way that they are assessed is also changing.

The assessment of a student's knowledge and understanding of the whole course will in future take place at the end of two years.

Therefore any two year course in September 2015, will be assessed in June 2017.

What about the AS-level qualification?

The AS-level will be retained and it will be redesigned as a high quality stand-alone qualification. Marks will not count towards the final A-level grade.

The first assessment of a new AS qualification could take place in June 2016.

Which subjects are affected first?

Plans are now confirmed for new A-levels being taught from September 2015 in the following subjects:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English (Language, Literature, Language and Literature)
- History
- Psychology
- Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology)
- Sociology

Are A-levels becoming harder?

A-levels are not becoming more difficult, the subject content is being changed to ensure that the qualifications equip students for higher education and employment.

How will universities be involved in the next generation of A-levels?

The Russell Group of universities has set up a separate and independent company named the A-level Content Advisory Body (ALCAB).

ALCAB will advise on the content in some subjects for a fixed term to inform changes to A-levels being taught for the first time from September 2016.

These subjects are Maths, Further Maths, Languages, Geography, Design & Technology, Drama, Dance, Music, Physical Education and Religious Studies.



"Studying A-levels at Cornwall College St Austell gave me the chance to really find out what I wanted from of my education and from myself. I changed my mind so many times over my three years in A-levels and the nature of the courses allowed me to do that. Without A-levels, I would never have got the confidence to become President of the Students' Union and without the incredible staff supporting me through some tough times, I wouldn't be getting ready to go to university to study Applied Criminology. I owe A-levels so much."

CHARLOTTE KNIGHT

The role of the A-level Centre at Cornwall College St Austell

We have been active participants in the consultation process and ongoing discussions with all key stakeholders about the next generation of A-levels.

We are fully committed to developing new A-levels that prepare for university study, ensuring we engage with and enthuse aspiring students.

The new A-levels will give us more time to teach the subject and more flexibility around when and how the course is delivered.

In partnership with the exam boards, the A-level staff are developing a range of support materials, information and resources to help students succeed.

Our role is to help at every stage and we'll continue to work in close consultation with schools, teachers, students and parents.

This will ensure that you are kept informed of upcoming changes and how these may affect you. We will continue to offer support so that these changes are understood and provide you with guidance on how we plan to deliver the new A-levels now and in the future.