

Ref:ARY/DER/Y10SU

June 2018

Dear Parents & Carers

Re: Year 10 “Step up to Year 11” launch

As we begin our final half term of this academic year I am writing to tell you about an exciting new initiative we are launching with Year 10 on **Monday 18th June**. For the last five weeks of term we will encourage students to refocus their efforts in lessons and begin to think in more detail about their potential exam results and their futures. I hope you will support us in creating a culture of high challenge and high expectations by encouraging your child to do their very best.

Timetable

All students in Year 10 will soon complete two GCSE qualifications. These are in the creative and vocational subjects such as Health & Social Care, Art, Food and ICT which they chose as part of their options in Year 8. Students will continue to study a third option, which they began this year, into Year 11. For the last five weeks of term every student will be given a new timetable which includes five hours per week of this third option subject. They will also have three hours per week of Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education. Some students will also be given the opportunity to complete an additional qualification before the summer to help them address any underperformance this year.

Homework

Students will receive an increased amount of homework. Current data shows that this is an area which must improve significantly. For example, a piece of homework set by the science team for the whole year group was completed by only 15 students on time in May. We need your support with this. Parental feedback tells us you want more homework for your children but they must be encouraged to see it as useful and necessary rather than optional. We will issue detentions for missed homework deadlines to Year 10 students during this time to help them establish good homework habits. There will be a reward event for all students who complete 25 homework activities during the last 5 weeks.

Planners

Each student will be given a new planner as part of the fresh start. In the planner you will find a copy of their most current predicted grades and their target grades. It would be good if you would use this to have a discussion with your child about how they feel they are doing at school. A copy of their new timetable will also be stuck in. These planners must remain graffiti free.

Books

Students will be given new books and encouraged to keep these in tip top condition. We want them to take pride in their work. We will continue to mark for literacy, expecting students to go back and correct errors in spelling and grammar. We will also be launching a new marking policy called “Demonstrate” to improve the planning to meet individual student needs.

Staffing

This year there has been a significant amount of change in staffing. We have had to use supply teachers more often than we would want in the short term to secure long term improvements. I am pleased to tell you that we have made some superb appointments for September including:

- Miss Shepherd, Head of English and Mr McLaughlin, Head of Maths, both from outstanding schools in the region
- Mr Hall and Mr Spencer – Vice Principals with proven success in school improvement
- Mr Mehat – Assistant Principal, currently leading a science department with outstanding results

I am confident that we will have everything in place to help Year 10 achieve the best results ever in the history of the school. I ask for your support in ensuring your child is in school at all times possible during the school year – unfortunately this year some Year 10 students have failed to complete their GCSE exam because their parents took them on holiday. Every week counts this term and we don't have any time to lose. Thank you in advance for all you will do to help your child succeed.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Rooney
Principal