

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Once again, our students have responded positively to the transition into the new academic year. Transitioning into the second year of their Key Stage 4 courses will likely see an increase in pressure. Some students will have already had their first insight into the upcoming examination period – with modular, external examinations taking place recently in Sport Science and Health & Social Care. Over the next two years, there will be more opportunities for students to experience the examination procedure, including rounds of 'Pre-Public Examinations' in Year 11. Trialling the real examination period is important; not only to identify what students know and what they need to focus on for revision, it gives students an understanding of the type of pressure and nerves they will feel – helping them to identify appropriate coping strategies to help them adjust and be better prepared for their official examinations.

Students are keen to take on the additional responsibility that Year 10 offers – I would like to thank the many Year 10 students that volunteered during our recent Open Evening. Those students that attended were a credit to both our year group and the wider school community. I was also pleased to read so many impressive and well-written applications for the role of 'Pastoral Prefect' – congratulations to those students that have been successful. Our Pastoral Prefects play an important role in our school community - carrying out supervisory duties, mentoring and supporting younger students and playing an active role in Giles Voice.

Over the course of next term, Year 10 students will participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. This is continuation of the successful Year 9 Summer Camp – this was a positive experience, and despite at times, somewhat testing weather conditions, the students showed the resilience and determination needed to succeed on the expedition. Based on the feedback provided by the various staff that attended the individual trips, I am confident that our students will also succeed on the upcoming Duke of Edinburgh award, a qualification that will enhance their future prospects.

As a reminder, following a period of consultation, the school day will be structured in the following way from September:

AM Reg	8:30 – 8:40
Period 1	8:40 – 9:30
Period 2	9:30 – 10:20
Break	10:20 – 10:40
Period 3	10:40 – 11:30
Period 4	11:30 – 12:20
Lunch	12:20 – 13:10
Period 5	13:10 – 14:00
Period 6	14:00 – 14:50
PM Reg	14:50 – 15:10

Students that travel to and from school will have previously received information regarding changes to the bus services from September – please make sure your son/daughter is familiar with new timings and locations if appropriate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform standards. (Our older style uniform is still being phased out.)

Old Uniform

Light grey blazer  
Black trousers/skirt

New Uniform

Dark grey blazer  
Dark grey trousers/skirt

In addition, the following uniform standards apply:

- Trousers must not be 'skinny' style
- Skirts must be of a reasonable length
- Students must not wear nail varnish, or gel or acrylic nails
- Only one ear piercing
- No facial piercings
- No trainers
- Naturally styled and coloured hair

Students will return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, where it will be Week A. I look forward to students returning, refreshed and ready for the busy academic year ahead.

Kind Regards



Mrs S Dyer  
Head of Year 10