

December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to thank all of the parents that attended our recent Progress Evening – it was great to see so many parents make the most of this opportunity to discuss progress with your child’s subject teachers; I hope you found the evening to be informative. If you wish to discuss anything following the evening, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 10 pastoral team. During the evening, our Home Learning scheme was launched; students have been given a Knowledge Organiser for each subject (electronic copies are available on our website if preferred). Students are to use these to complete a piece of recall learning each day – over time, students will see an improvement in their long-term memory, embedding their knowledge in preparation for learning the more difficult concepts studied in Year 11, and indeed their upcoming GCSE examinations. The response to this has been fantastic – it is great to see so many students taking pride in their efforts.

Congratulations to our Year 10 students that have performed in either the Christmas Concert, or the Variety Performance. As always, I was astounded by the talent demonstrated, but also immensely proud at the work ethic these students have displayed – their success is testament to the hours of hard work preparing for these events.

I would also like to thank the large number of Year 10 Prefect students that have voluntarily offered their services during the Christmas Concert, Variety Performance and in selling tickets, and serving our annual Christmas Dinner. The Prefects have also been busy this term, finalising the details for their whole school projects – they presented their ideas to Mr Widdows - a nerve-wracking, but confidence building experience. More details will follow on the plans for their projects in the new year.

Our Pastoral curriculum this term has focused on ‘Living Responsibly’: This unit includes learning about how to become a responsible citizen, debating topical social issues including:

1. Managing time effectively
2. Living sustainably
3. Homelessness
4. Hate Crime
5. Tattoos and Piercings
6. Binge Drinking

Next term, our focus turns to Careers - helping students to identify future career goals, creating an action plan appropriate to their interests and qualifications. We will also explore the influence of gender identity on career aspirations, stereotypes and pay.

1. The right career for me
2. Employability skills: CV
3. Careers in STEM
4. Rights & Responsibilities
5. Volunteering (Link to Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award)
6. International Women’s Day

On behalf of our Pastoral team, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Students will return to school in the New Year on Tuesday 8th January 2019, on Week B.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Stacey Dyer
Head of Year 10