

19 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to all year 10 parents/carers who attended the recent Parents' Evening. We hope that you found it useful.

Year 10 marked the beginning of the GCSE courses, making it a crucial foundation year for future academic success. The knowledge, skills, and study habits developed during this year will be built upon in Year 11 and will directly affect final examination results. We are now one full term into that year, so we would like you to reflect with your child as to whether they are where they need to be, or whether there are some habits that can be improved. If you have any concerns or questions, please do contact your child's tutor, year team or subject teacher, depending on the topic of conversation, as we are keen to work together to give every student the best possible chance of success.

We are also writing with updates to some of the events that are happening over the remainder of your child's time in Year 10.

### **Trial Exams**

We will be running a set of core trial exams w/c 26 January 2026. These trial exams are being held for two reasons

1. To start immersing the students in what exam conditions will look and feel like in the summer of 2027. We will hold the trials under JCQ rules and will write in the new year with further details of these. We will be following up any concerns about exams conduct with you so that we can work together to ensure the students are fully supported to make the right choices in the next set of trial exams in the summer of 2026.
2. It is an opportunity to indicate the grade that the students may achieve when they sit their exams - knowing that there is still over a year to make any necessary adjustments to learning behaviours and techniques.

### **Mentoring**

We are launching our first round of a mentoring programme in the new year, for students who we feel would benefit from additional guidance, support and encouragement to help them achieve their full potential both academically and personally. Mentors will work with students to identify strengths and areas for improvement, offering personalised support and helping students develop positive attitudes towards learning. This programme plays an important role in ensuring students feel supported and able to overcome challenges.

## **Work Experience**

During the summer term our Year 10 students will have the opportunity to participate in a five day Work Experience placement. The Work Experience dates are: Monday 13 July - Friday 17 July 2026.

Through engaging in work experience, our aim is that students will be able to:

- Learn more about life and responsibilities in a working environment
- Recognise the transferable skills, qualities and attitudes required for success in the workplace
- Learn more about career, education and training opportunities available
- Consider their suitability for a career in a particular sector
- Evaluate and refine their own career plans
- Identify their personal strengths and areas for further development

Students will be responsible for finding their own placement in an area of potential career interest. To do this, they may need to enlist the help of parents/carers, relatives and family friends. We do encourage you to be part of this process to ensure that you are happy with the placement and how they will be travelling to and from each day.

We will be discussing in the new year how students can also identify and approach potential placement providers themselves to try to secure relevant work experience. We are also reaching out to local employers to offer work experience opportunities in a range of career sectors, so it may be possible to secure placements for students who have not been able to find appropriate opportunities, but we do recommend trying to source one of interest first.

A couple of key messages:

- Students not participating in work experience attend school as usual.
- We will not be able to authorise placements unless all administrative requirements are completed before the given deadlines. This includes parental consent and information from the employer.

## **Student Hub**

As we have indicated previously, we have been taking time to review various aspects of the school and have taken the decision to re-organise the roles within the pastoral support team to increase capacity, coherence, and effectiveness of the school's pastoral care provision.

Instead of having an Assistant Head of Year allocated to each year group, who multitask, these staff will now be taking specialist roles.

Mrs Keenan-Croad - Keystage 3 Pastoral Lead (Year 7, 8 and 9)

Mrs Rogers - Keystage 4 Pastoral Lead (Year 10 and 11)

Mrs Barry - Medical and Mental Health Support

Miss Johnson - Safeguarding and Transition Support

Mrs Dunbar - Admin and Operational support

If your child has one of these members of staff as their named adult, they will still be their support.

This has been shared with the students, so they know what to expect when they return to school in the New Year.

Heads of Year will remain as they are now, one allocated to each year group. This change reflects our ongoing focus on inclusive education, safeguarding, and wellbeing.

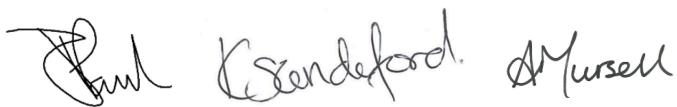
### **Key reminders**

During Year 10, students are expected to take greater responsibility for their learning. This includes completing homework regularly, revising consistently and developing good organisation and time-management skills. Strong attendance and punctuality in lessons are also essential, as missing lessons can make it difficult to keep up with course content.

Your support at home plays a vital role. Encouraging your child to stay focused, maintain a positive attitude towards learning and seek help when needed can make a significant difference to their progress and confidence.

By working together, we can help ensure that Year 10 is a successful and productive year, setting students on the right path for their GCSEs and future opportunities.

Yours faithfully

Handwritten signatures of Paul, Katie Sandiford, and Anna Mursell.

Jess Paul, Katie Sandiford and Anna Mursell