



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

September 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

As your child begins Year 10, I write to let you know about key dates and plans for this vital period of their education.

You may already be aware that all GCSEs are now linear, meaning that students will only take public exams at the end of Year 11. Students may still have to complete Non Examined Assessment (a type of coursework) in some of their GCSE subjects. A timetable outlining the provisional timings of NEAs is available on the school website (in the 'Learning and Progress' section) and further details will be given to the students by their teachers. You can also find the document 'GCSE information for parents of years 10 and 11' in which all GCSE courses and helpful resources are listed.

There will be a Key Stage 4 information evening on **Thursday 3rd October** at 7.30pm to discuss how you can support your child in their GCSEs, how subjects are assessed and how forecast grades are generated and used.

Each of our students will be given a forecast grade on the new 9-1 grade scale, to be clearly recorded in their planner. The purpose of this is to allow students, parents and teachers to judge progress in a way that is appropriate for individual students. Students will be informed of their forecast grade and this will be included on the first progress review.

The school will send home projected grades as part of a Progress Review on **Monday 9th December**, prior to a formal Parents' Evening on **Wednesday 29th January**. Full Reports will be sent home on **Friday 10th July**.

To help students to cope with the challenges of linear assessment, there will be Year 10 examinations at the start of the summer term (**Mon 20th April to Friday 1st May**) which will introduce the students to the challenges of revising large amounts of work from a range of subjects at the same time. These exams will be taken in the exam hall under formal conditions to give students an experience that is as real to public exams as possible.

There are, importantly, many exciting opportunities beyond the classroom for year 10 and I hope that this year group will continue to engage fully with extra-curricular activities of all types. The Residential Trips Information Booklet (on the school website) gives details of some of these opportunities, as well as the weekly clubs and activities in school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support regarding the schools uniform policy, in particular regarding shoes being leather and not canvas and not trainer style with visible logos. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this or the arrangements for Year 10. We look forward to a productive and successful year.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Margerison
Head of Year 10

Headteacher: Mr C Burt

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