

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope that you and your families had a lovely summer. The Year 9 pastoral team consists of the following staff and your child's form tutor should be your first port of call:

Head of Year: Mrs S Wrigley			
Year manager: Mr J Yeo			
Form	Tutor(s)	Form	Tutor(s)
9G	Miss D Owen	9M	Mr J Doherty/Mrs I Gupta
9R	Miss N Bridge	9I	Ms M Hughes
9E	Miss D Puddepha	9N	Mr A Edmonds
9A	Mrs L Chadwick	9D	Mr S Altaf
9T	Mrs A Martin	9S	Miss S Lees

The students have now had 2 years to settle in and adapt to life at GAA. I will be continuing to talk to the students about the importance of 'getting it right' and taking ownership for what they do day-to-day linking it to the world of work and employability throughout this academic year. The students are beginning to approach the 'business end' of their school years and they now need to be beginning to look towards their futures and GCSE options, in terms of what qualifications they will need, to go on to have futures that they would choose in terms of their adult working life.

This term the Year 9 students will have opportunity to visit a GAA careers fair which will be attended by a multitude of potential employers and also some local colleges from within Greater Manchester. This opportunity will allow the students to begin to consider their lives post-GAA and begin to plant seeds in their minds linking academic attainment to their futures. Later in the term there will also be an opportunity for 'Take your Child to work day.' A child experiencing the workplace is invaluable to them because they can see and understand for themselves what is expected by employers of their staff. It can also temporarily take a person out of their comfort zone which is beneficial to them developmentally by strengthening their character and resilience.

The students need to be encouraged to develop independent simple routines in terms of their organisation for school around family life so that they learn to be prepared for each 'working' day. This is small things such as remembering to put their tie and shoes in a specific place each evening, packing their bag the night before putting it in a specific place, making their packed lunch the night before, having a set time that they complete homework independently to the best of their ability etc. Becoming more independent whilst there is plenty of time to do so will help students in preparation for when they reach KS4 in a year's time. Being independent promotes self-confidence and boosts self-esteem within a person.

This academic year Mrs Capstick is no longer working with the year group as a year manager but does remain at GAA. It is possible though that she will still work closely with some of you and your children in her new role as KS3 Attendance and Welfare Year Manager.

Should you need to be in touch with myself or Mr Yeo please contact us via email using our email address [goldpastoral@gaa.org.uk](mailto:goldpastoral@gaa.org.uk) because this account is regularly checked throughout a working day. It also means that if one of the team is out of school, your message can be picked up by the other member of the team.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Susan Wrigley

Head of Year 9