

12 December 2024

Year 10 Letter to families

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well. We are fast approaching the end of the first term of KS4. It has been a steep learning curve for many, making the 'jump' from KS3 to KS4. The level of the work has increased as well as its significance due to your child is now being at the 'business-end' of school. Students should be checking our Teams platform every day for messages and notices. This routine is crucial. The majority of communication in the adult world is electronic via platforms or apps. The students need to be prepared for their futures. This is where all homework is posted and day-to-day correspondence from their teachers. Homework completed to a good standard is important. It consolidates learning and is good preparation for their GCSEs where achieving 'good grades' is a national competition between the whole country who will sit their GCSEs at the same time as your child.

Earlier this term, the enrichment calendar was shared with students via Teams and on the school website. Enrichment activities are an important part of a person's development. It does not matter whether a person does an activity in their own time, community based or in school. Enrichment activities enable a person to meet people of similar interests who they can form friendships with, as well as provide escapism from their academic work whilst enabling them to develop a skill set that colleges and employers are looking for.

This academic year there have been opportunities co-ordinated by the careers team. This term a careers fair was held in school. It gave students opportunity to meet college representatives and some potential future employers. Some Year 10 students have also visited KPMG and Price Waterhouse Cooper in Manchester to get a glimpse into the world of work and life beyond KS4. The experiences are invaluable. They enable a person to subconsciously think what they might want from their life as an adult before having to commit to pathways and choices. There will be further opportunities in the new year. One of which will be an opportunity for 30 Year 10 GAA students during National Apprenticeship week which is 10th to 14th February.

At the end of this academic term, students will attend their Celebration Assembly. This is to mark academic successes along with students who consistently adhere to the GREAT values. Along with academic success, the adult world and employers see huge value in genuine people who are respectful of others and want to work as part of a team to make a success. In the last 12 months there has been an increased focus on 'the why?' students are being recognised. It is important that children recognise the qualities that others see in them to help build confidence and allow the children to further flourish.

In the new year, leadership opportunities will begin to be offered. They will include two Head student roles along with other positions within small teams. Miss Hughes will be launching this in Year 10 assembly on Tuesday 14th January. Your child should be encouraged to apply for them to broaden their skill set and make them more attractive to prospective colleges and future employers.

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 , this account is regularly checked throughout a working day in term time. 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.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming the students back in the New Year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Susan Wrigley

Head of Year 10