

24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**RE: GCSE OPTIONS AND PREPARING FOR YEAR 10**

Dear Y9 Parents / Carers,

It has been an absolute pleasure to guide students through the exciting next step in their education, as they choose their GCSE Options. I have been impressed with the focus and renewed sense of maturity and independence I have observed during lessons and throughout the school. Year 9 students are attending academic enrichment sessions, applying for tutoring opportunities, and engaging well with their studies. I look forwards to seeing this exemplary behavior continue as Year 9 acts as role models to younger students in the school reunification next half term.

We will be in contact at the start of next half term to confirm your child's GCSE Options or to invite you into school for a meeting to discuss this further.

As you will have noticed from Miss Jordan's letter last week, **Year 9's school day will start at 8:30am from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June onwards (the first day back after half term)**. The additional compulsory half an hour in school, between 8.30am and 9am will be called Prep. In this time, students will benefit from University-style lectures from Heads of Departments and teachers who are academic experts in their subject. This will enable us to provide your child with an additional two and a half hours of teaching a week. It will give your child the opportunity to prepare for the academic rigour and challenge of GCSEs, whilst also extending their knowledge beyond the core demands of the GCSE curriculum. Students will be taught note-taking skills, so that they are equipped with the vital skills for success in further study beyond Year 11. It is imperative that all students now arrive to school before 8:30 everyday – arriving after this time will incur a late detention.

At this time, I would also like to draw your attention to the **importance of your child's attendance and punctuality at school**. The clear link between high attendance and high achievement at GCSE is well studied and explained in the table below. **Over the half term holiday, please discuss with your child the changes they may need to make to their routines to ensure their punctuality and high attendance at school.**

ATTENDANCE		100-97%	97-95%	95-90%	90-85%	85- %
MEANS		1 DAY OFF per half term	1.5 DAYS OFF per half term	2.5 DAYS OFF per half term	3-5 DAYS OFF per half term	6+ DAYS OFF per half term
SUCCESS AT GCSE		81.7% chance of 5+ 5-9 grades	71.5% chance of 5+ 5-9 grades	56.8% chance of 5+ 5-9 grades	41% chance of 5+ 5-9 grades	28.9% chance of 5+ 5-9 grades

**BE HERE, GET THERE**

Kind regards,



**Ms S Armitage**  
Director of Learning Year 9