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5 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

First Impressions and Y10

We continue to be very impressed with the start Year 10 have made to this academic year. From conversations with students to regular visits to lessons, it is wonderful to see so many students being so positive about their learning and taking advantage of every opportunity. We look forward to seeing this develop further this half term.

Year 10 is a pivotal year where students are well into their GCSE studies, and start thinking about the world of work through the securing of a work experience placement.

Through assembly, we have started to talk about first impressions and the significance of the way Y10 present themselves in terms of:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Attitude to others, and to their own work
- How they present themselves

This will be an ongoing theme as students prepare themselves for work experience. The support of parent/carers and the positive impact this can have, cannot be underestimated.

Work Experience 'The Next Step'

There has been a fantastic response to the deadline set for the return of the parent/carer consent form. However, there are currently 44 students who have yet to return their consent form and the Learning Mentor Team will be supporting with following these up. Any help parents and carers can provide in signing and returning forms is greatly appreciated.

On Tuesday, students received the next two forms.

- Placement details form (Blue)
- Placement risk assessment form (Yellow)

Both forms have a deadline of 14th December in order to ensure the placements are secured before the Christmas holidays and students can concentrate on their studies.

GCSE English Literature

One of the most powerful tools that a GCSE English Literature student can have is to know the texts they have studied in class. It may sound simple but this means reading the text more than just once in lesson. The more a student knows the text, the more confident they will feel in an assessment.

To aid with your child's learning of the GCSE English Literature texts, the school have purchased every student a copy of the three texts they need to study: An Inspector Calls, A Christmas Carol and Macbeth. These texts will be distributed in class at the time of studying a unit and it is your child's responsibility to look after them and bring the appropriate text to the lesson. They will be able to annotate them and make them their own as we move through the year. This is such a powerful tool for the students and one we hope will raise their attainment levels.

Teachers will inform students what unit they are studying so that they are prepared but you can always refer to the department's curriculum map on the school site.

We hope that you can support us in stressing the need for your child to take responsibility for looking after their literature texts, as we cannot afford to replace individual lost books.

Exam Dates

The RE GCSE exam for Y10 is planned to take place in the summer. Whilst we do not know the exact date that this will take place we are aware that the last date for the exam period is 28 June 2021 with a contingency date of 29 June 2021. The contingency date is where an exam has been moved as a result of national extenuating circumstances and all students must remain available for exams until after the contingency date.

Preparation for the RE Mock Examination

There will be a mock examination in RE in December (date to be confirmed) to give all students the opportunity to show what they understand at this time. The RE department will use the marked responses to create a personalised PLC for every student and close any gaps in knowledge over the forthcoming weeks. An assembly will be delivered this month to share with students how to prepare successfully for this exam as well as the conduct needed in the exam hall.

We also plan to give students the chance to use specific revision strategies in tutor time, in the run up to this exam, to give them every opportunity to be exposed to as much support as possible. This is on top of the timetabled RE lessons where revision will be interleaved with new content.

This mock examination is part of our normal practice of exposing students to the environment of being in the Exam Hall as well as dealing with timed conditions to show what knowledge they can recall.

In many ways, getting ready for this one examination in Y10 will help students with the experience of preparation needed for many more in Year 11. We wish them all the best of luck.

Kind regards,



Mrs S Barley-Morey

Assistant Head Teacher, Year 10 Lead



Mr M Atkins

Senior Assistant Head Teacher