

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we begin a new year, so we begin the second term for Year 10 on their GCSE journey. We have had many successes so far, including excellent assessment outcomes in many subjects, brilliant sporting successes e.g. Year 10 girls winning the county netball tournament and Year 10 having a large presence in Christmas concerts, school productions and British Youth Music Theatre auditions.

Our expectations of this year group are the highest they can be – because the sky is truly the limit for a cohort full of wonderfully talented, intelligent, and caring young people. Alongside this talent, in order to achieve one's potential hard work, organisation and resilience play a big role in ensuring this happens.

As we move ever closer to Year 10's first set of real mock exams in May, it is imperative that students stay on top of their workload and catch up immediately on any content that they may miss due to absence. We understand that from time to time, your child may be too ill to attend school, but being proactive and motivated to catch up on the work that has been missed is vital to ensure that all of Year 10 have a winning mindset towards their GCSEs. It is expected that students complete any missed work through absence that is set on Satchel One as soon as possible once they are back at school. This may be in the form of additional home learning to ensure any gaps are closed and missed work is caught up on.

Furthermore, there have been a number of students who have not met deadlines for home learning tasks in some of their subjects. This includes important retrieval activities that focus on consolidating learning and revision. This becomes more important this term as we move towards their end of year exams. We need your support as parents/carers to promote the importance of home learning and revision at home to supplement their education at school. The Blended Learning Platform and online resources such as SENECA and SPARX are invaluable in helping students make their learning sticky. We talked to the students at the start of the year about 'marginal gains' and that every tiny step you take can add up to a significant difference at the end of the year. Revision, home learning, catching up on work missed are all marginal gains that if you add together, will have a tangible impact on your child's progress.

This term there will be a series of assemblies that the Year 10 Progress tutor team will be delivering around revision techniques for specific subjects, handling exam stress and supporting Year 10's preparation.

If we continue to work together and have the highest expectations of our young people at school and at home, we will fulfil the vast potential that this fantastic cohort clearly has.

If you have any queries or concerns over your child's progress, please contact Miss Hinton on c.hinton@kingsmeadschool.net

Yours faithfully,

Miss C. Hinton

Year 10 Progress Leader

Mr. T. Truby

Assistant Headteacher