

September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It has been a pleasure to welcome your children back to College as Year 10 students, ready to begin their GCSE journey with energy and determination.

This is an exciting and pivotal stage in your child's education. For many, their chosen options mean they will be exploring new subjects for the first time or delving deeper into areas of genuine interest. These next two years are critical, and the habits your child develops now, particularly in terms of work ethic, attitude, and attendance, will directly influence their long-term success.

One of the most important messages we are sharing with students is that GCSE success is built gradually, through consistent effort over time. Examinations are not simply passed in the exam hall. They are the result of months and years of steady commitment, resilience, and focus.

Your support as parents continues to play a vital role. By showing interest in your child's school life, encouraging a healthy balance of study and rest, monitoring social media usage, and ensuring homework is completed to the best of their ability, you help reinforce the values of responsibility and self-discipline that underpin academic achievement.

Thank you for your ongoing support with attendance. Last year, nine students in the year group achieved 100% attendance, and an additional 66 students maintained an attendance rate of over 96%, which is a fantastic achievement.

However, the average attendance for Year 9 was 92.7%, which highlights that a significant number of students had attendance hovering around 90%. While 90% may sound reasonable, it equates to approximately 20 missed school days, or four full weeks of lost learning. Research from the Department for Education clearly shows how even modest absences can have a lasting impact on both academic outcomes and future opportunities.

We strongly encourage all parents to aim for attendance of 96% or higher. You can monitor your child's attendance in real time using the Synergy app, which provides live updates throughout the year.

To help ensure no student falls behind, we will be launching "Catch-Up Thursdays" this term. Students who have missed a day due to absence will be invited to attend a dedicated catch-up session after school on Thursdays to catch up on the work missed in Maths and English. These sessions will be led by teaching staff from those departments. These sessions are designed to provide targeted support and help students stay on track in these key subjects and mitigate the loss of learning caused by one off absences.

We appreciate your continued support of our policies, including our mobile phone and uniform expectations. Please ensure your child returns to school each day in full uniform. If there are any concerns or difficulties, we encourage you to contact us. We are always happy to offer guidance or financial support where needed.

Please see below a list of key dates for the first half term.

- Wednesday 3rd September – Year 10 School Photos. These will be available to purchase within the coming weeks.
- Thursday 25th September – Open Evening (students will finish at 12:30pm)
- Wednesday 1st October – Year 10 "Welcome to GCSE" and Work Experience Launch Evening – more details to follow.
- Thursday 16th October – Planning Afternoon (students leave at 1:35pm)
- Friday 24th October – Students finish for Half Term

We are excited about the year ahead and the opportunities it holds for your child. A positive mindset, excellent attendance, and consistent effort will be the key ingredients for a successful and rewarding Year 10. If there is anything we can do to support your child, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your child as they progress throughout Year 10.

With best wishes,



Mr C M Taylor

Head of Year 10