



July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Transition from Year 9 to Year 10

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 9 students on completing their Key Stage 3 journey, to look ahead to the exciting opportunities and challenges that await them in Year 10 and to introduce myself as the Director of Key Stage 4.

The transition into Key Stage 4 marks an important milestone. Over the next two years, students will begin studying their GCSE and vocational courses in greater depth, developing the knowledge, skills and resilience that will support their future ambitions.

What to Expect in Year 10

Year 10 brings increased academic challenge and greater independence. Students are expected to continue to meet our core expectations and increase focus on the following:

- Aiming for 100% attendance and making sure they arrive punctually to all lessons.
- Taking responsibility for organising their equipment, homework and revision.
- Completing all home learning to a high standard and meeting deadlines consistently.
- Engaging positively in lessons and contributing to a focused learning environment.
- Beginning to develop effective revision habits well before formal examinations.
- Demonstrating the values of respect, commitment and excellence in all aspects of school life.

Whilst Year 11 is often viewed as the "exam year", success at GCSE is built during Year 10. The knowledge and study habits developed from the very start of the year are crucial foundations for future achievement.

Preparing for Year 10

There are several ways students can make a positive start to Key Stage 4:

During the Summer Break

- Reading regularly to help to develop vocabulary, comprehension and confidence.
- Completing any transition or bridging work provided by their subjects.
- Maintaining good routines, including healthy sleep patterns.
- Reflecting on their experiences through Key Stage 3 and looking at personal goals and aspirations for Key Stage 4.

From September

- Establishing a regular homework and study routine (we will support students during assemblies and form time with recommendations of effective ways to achieve this)
- Reviewing, revising and reflecting on learning at regular intervals. This will help in preparation for CATs and their exams rather than waiting until just before assessments to revise.

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- Seeking support early and talking to their teachers if they are finding aspects of their learning challenging.
- Taking pride in attendance, punctuality and presentation of work.

Supporting Students

We recognise that the move into Key Stage 4 can feel significant and we are committed to ensuring every student feels supported.

Throughout Year 10, students will benefit from:

- Carefully sequenced GCSE courses.
- Regular assessment and feedback through CATs to monitor progress.
- Subject-specific support and intervention
- Guidance to effectively develop study skills, organisation and effective revision strategies.
- Careers education and guidance to help students explore future pathways. This will begin at the end of Year 10 with work experience at the end of Year 10. All students will have at least one careers meeting.

Our aim is to support every student to thrive academically, socially and emotionally throughout Key Stage 4.

School and Parent/Carer Partnership

The partnership between school and home is a key factor in student success. We encourage parents and carers to:

- Take a regular interest in what their child is learning, home learning that is set and progress through the assessments.
- Encourage positive routines around study, attendance and wellbeing.
- Communicate with school if concerns arise.
- Attend information evenings and parents' evenings throughout the year.
- Celebrate effort, perseverance and progress as well as achievement.

Year 10 is an exciting new stage. It is a time to develop independence, strengthen study habits and build the foundations for future success. Mr Inglis and I look forward to working closely with students and families as they begin this important stage of their educational journey.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish all our Year 9 students a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming them back in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Mason

Assistant Headteacher, Director of Key Stage 4