

24th September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 10 Course Information and Home learning timetable

Year 10 have settled smoothly into studying for their GCSEs. After lockdown last academic year, they are now enjoying being back in school full time and I have had numerous positive comments from staff about how focused and eager they are in lessons.

Year 10 are a diligent year group and they really want to do well so they work incredibly hard in order to achieve this. One of the things that I talked to them about in my first assembly was the importance of looking after themselves as well. In order to achieve academically, they need to balance their hard work with time to relax and exercise. We have been practising mindfulness in registrations since Year 7 and Year 10 have been encouraged to practice what they have learnt. I hope that the students are taking on board the all-important advice of gaining the correct balance of studying and free time to maintain wellbeing alongside academic success.

It is important for students to set up good study systems alongside effective study strategies. The systems are about having a routine each evening and at the weekend, knowing what work they need to do as well as keeping on top of deadlines. Students should be averaging two hours a night of study between Monday to Thursday and four hours over the weekend. If your daughter has completed her home learning and claims she has nothing to do, you could suggest to her that she makes revision notes from her classwork in addition to using textbooks and websites to consolidate her learning. It is really good for her understanding and memory to build up revision notes as she goes along. You may also find that if you encourage your daughter to develop a routine of completing two hours study a night, then she may take longer over her home learning and turn in better quality work. Many GCSE subjects now use folders instead of exercise books and we have told Year 10 students that they are allowed to bring 'day folders' into school. This will mean that they only need to carry the last few lessons worth of work for each of their lessons in one folder instead of a lever-arched folder for each subject. It will mean that they need to be organised to ensure that they have everything that they need for each lesson each day.

I have attached the following documents to help you support your daughter in establishing good study systems.

- The Year 10 Home Learning Timetable.
- GCSE course information about exam boards and the structure of assessment for each subject.
- A list of textbooks for each subject – there is no expectation that you purchase all these books but in the past parents have wanted to know what to buy if they choose to. For some subjects, the Head of Department will have written to you with details of any books that are required.

Dates to be aware of that are coming up are:

- 21st October KS4 Parent Information Evening
- 16th December Year 10 Review 1
- 21st January Year 10 Parents Evening

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me further via email year10team@holt.wokingham.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Thomas
Head of Year 10