

Ref: NJN/PHA/Year8into9

Friday 11 May 2018

Dear Parent,

The Journey to GCSE Success & End of Year Reporting

You will be all too aware that, in September, your child will begin their GCSE curriculum. The changes which the Government has recently made to GCSE assessment will make this transition a larger one than ever before, and we have been working for several weeks to make this change as easy as possible for your child.

While, of course, a 'step up' in terms of the independence your child will need to demonstrate over the next few years is important, we also recognise that, for many students, continuing to study those subjects they have not chosen can be a demotivating and disengaging experience.

Therefore, upon their return to school after the May Half Term break (at 8.30am on Monday 4th June 2018), your child will begin their KS4 timetable. This will give your child an additional half term of learning to settle into their new courses. We believe that this will ensure that your child is even better prepared when Year 9 formally begins in September 2018.

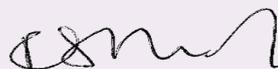
This has some implications on the way we report on the academic progress your child is making. We feel that assessing your child against the GCSE standards expected of them from September onwards would not be worthwhile. Therefore, at the end of this Academic Year, you will receive a report in which each of your child's teachers will report on the type of learning attributes your child has demonstrated this term in each subject. This will represent a valuable insight into your child's readiness for GCSE success, by identifying subject areas of strength and enthusiasm – as well as any which may require some greater commitment from them in September.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us, or Mr Hamilton, your child's Head of Year, if you have any further questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Jones
Assistant Headteacher (Assessment & Data)



Mr P Harchowal
Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum)