

June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Preparing for Options - GCSEs 2018-19**

You will be aware that most students currently in Year 9 or Year 10 will be studying for one or two optional subject GCSEs next year. They will have 5 hours a week of timetabled lessons next year for each of these courses ready to sit the corresponding exam in summer 2019.

We have prepared a pack of 'bridging work' for each course. This is to bridge the gap from current to new knowledge in order to make a great start on these courses in September. Each pack is designed to take around six hours in total. Most students will have gained some time at the end of exam courses they have completed this summer and some of this time will be given over to undertake the bridging work.

Not all students will gain the same amount of time towards the end of this term and indeed there are a few who may not gain any. Students also work at different paces, so students who are unable to complete this preparatory work during school time, should endeavour to engage with it over the long summer holiday. If your child hasn't gained any time and they'd rather not do the work over the holiday, they can attend after school homework club in the Learning Resource Centre during the last 4 weeks to get the work done there. ALL students would benefit from reviewing their bridging work at the end of August, just prior to their new courses in September, ensuring they have attempted any summary assessments included to hand in to teachers so that their understanding of ideas presented can be checked at the start of the new course.

There may also be some additional enrichment resources to engage with and students should certainly explore the relevant subject areas of the MLE to broaden their understanding of the curriculum they are about to embark upon. The more students are willing to look at and work on independently, the better prepared they will be to start their courses, but we expect all students to have done the minimum six hours of work indicated in the bridging pack.

Students will be issued their personal packs by form tutors or subject teachers in the week beginning 25 June. For most students, they will be able to leave the pack with their teacher until the end of term so they can have it to hand to work on when time is given over during lessons. Some students will need to take responsibility for their own pack since they will have time to work on it in more than one subject lesson, or because they have not gained any time from completed exam courses. Over the summer holiday, students will need to take their packs with them, to finish if not already complete, or refer to for review before September. They will need to look after it carefully, since they will need to bring the pack with them to the first lesson of the new course in September. If the pack is lost, it should be possible to access/print out a new copy from the relevant subject area on the MLE.

Please encourage your child to engage positively with this work, which has been designed to support them to make the best start to their new courses in September and make good use of gained lesson time in the final weeks of term now that we no longer roll the timetable forward to begin at the end of the summer term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Vaughan  
Deputy Head  
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