

21st May, 2020

Dear Parents, carers and students in Year 9

Very shortly we will be writing to you to inform you of your Key Stage Four Pathways subjects. This will arrive to you in the form of an email which is probably the most efficient way of communicating at this time. The email will tell you the names of the four courses that will be studied in addition to Maths, English, Science and PE (non exam) next year. The teachers who will be teaching these subjects will be communicated to you in September.

In order to best prepare Year 9 students for these challenging, exciting and crucially important courses, we will begin providing each student with essential summer term learning to ensure that there is a smooth transition to Key Stage Four in September. This means that your daughter/son will now continue to remotely learn: English, Maths, Science PSHE, **plus the four pathways subjects only**, for the remainder of this school year starting in term 6. We will continue to communicate with you via Insight regarding these lessons, as we have since home learning began.

Week 1 of term 6 will commence with a daily English, Maths and Science (core subjects) lesson, Monday to Thursday, building towards a learning check in core subjects at the end of the first week. In Week 2 we will be launching taster lessons in Pathways subjects. In order to support students to focus solely on these subjects over the course of the week, they will not engage in the core subjects again until Week 3 when they will remotely study English, Maths, Science, PSHE and the four pathway subjects only for the rest of the academic year.

As you will understand, maintaining full interest and commitment in the summer term will be absolutely essential for students in Year 9 in order to be prepared for September and to not be left behind. For the small number of students who may be attending other schools and institutions in September, we encourage you to pick from the subjects available that will best match your choices for September. Please do continue to let us know if you have any issues whatsoever.

In order to support parents and students further, we will also be sending you details of GCSEPod which is a free online system which will allow your teachers to provide the very best online learning material to you and for students to use independently in order to reinforce learning at home. Your teachers will refer to this system regularly from now on, so you will need to sign-up. Full details on what to do will be sent in a separate letter.

Parents and carers who are interested to learn more about GCSEPod can sign up for a free online tour of the site by booking onto a webinar (see below):

To book, just click the link to the right of the webinar. For more information on the webinars that are running (and to view samples of the ones that have run so far) click here:

<https://www.gcsepod.com/news-gcse-learning-revision/podup-presents-webinars/>

PARENT WEBINAR - Introduction to GCSEPod

May 28, 12:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ic7sPQCWTI-IPUxGICt2tg

June 4, 5:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZhgXywxzQ8C4K6yC2VcK1w

June 11, 9:30 AM

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xp8TItAHREqBv6TWDKR85Q

June 15, 12:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gtfa0fuwR8mmyAbsBT_ACw

June 23, 5:30 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u5yd852DRyy1OFCaz9xn3A

Please 'keep your eye' on your email in-box over the next few days and into the start of term 6 for important announcements effecting the education of SBL Year 9 students over the summer term and into 2020/21 academic year.

With every best wish,



Mr White

Vice Principal