

19 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Stepping Up to Year 11

July has been a busy month for our Year 10 students. We were very pleased with attendance and conduct on both the recent strike days. As well as taught lessons, we were able to deliver important sessions on aspirations and revision techniques. That week we also held Futures Day to inform students about options and courses for Year 12-13 which they engaged with very well. Then the students went on their Work Experience week, and we hope they all benefitted from spending time in a work setting, interacting with new people and learning different skills. Some lovely messages have been received at College about students' hard work and good manners. Coming back to school for a few days to reflect on their recent exam performance, learning from last week in the workplace, starting more research on future careers/courses and planning for Year 11 makes this an important week.

I am writing to you about your child moving up to Year 11, as I will be working closely with Ms Owoh and Mrs Silverthorne this year. To ensure the students make great academic progress over the next twelve months Ms Owoh and Mrs Silverthorne will continue to oversee the welfare and personal development of the students, whilst I manage exams, revision skills and matters of curriculum. An important part of my role will be to monitor the progress of new tutor groups, in which we will deliver masterclasses first thing in the morning. As Mr Edwards explained in a recent letter home and in assembly, we are using tutor time differently in Year 11 to boost attainment, as well as delivering important content for students' personal development and wellbeing.

During the summer break, it is important for students to rest and recharge their batteries. We hope families have time together to relax whether at home or on a holiday. In addition, we expect our students to complete some academic work in all their GCSE subjects. Parents and carers receive information about tasks set out in a letter entitled "Get Ahead, Stay Ahead" at the end of each term. As your son/daughter transitions into their GCSE year, these tasks are more important than ever. The students can approach the mock exams (November 2023) and the summer exams (2024) much more calmly if they return to school in September, not feeling "rusty" in all their subjects.

When breaks come around in Year 11, we always ask students to plan their week/fortnight off, so that leisure time and study both fit in. With six weeks away from school now, we urge parents and students to look ahead and plan when schoolwork can be done, especially for subjects where the grade in the

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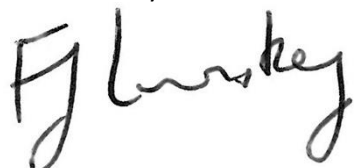
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summer exams is not as good as they would like. Some learning apps work best on ten minutes a day, every day, whilst other tasks may require a morning or afternoon of study at home. Rather than having a panic at the end of August, please check all the summer tasks with your child now and decide how to fit them in, alongside leisure of course. As the students know, their efforts now will pay dividends next summer, and excellent GCSE grades will help them realise their ambitions.

Please do contact me (fiona.lunskey@mrc-academy.org), Ms Owoh or Mrs Silverthorne if you have any queries about academic matters, as we move into Year 11 with your child.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Lunskey'. The 'F' is large and stylized, with the 'L' and 'unskey' following in a cursive script.

Mrs F Lunskey
Assistant Principal Raising Standards