

John Masefield High School and Sixth Form Centre

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Andrew Evans BSc MA

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Andy Collard BA



September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Key Stage 4 team to welcome your child to Year 10. This year I will be responsible for the overview of progress during year 10, and although your child's tutor, House Head and House Support Assistant remain key support and contacts, I will be working alongside to support the work of this team and the teachers working this year with Year 10.

The vast majority of Year 10 students were successful in securing the majority of their option choices for study this year, and many have started their Key Stage 4 courses at some level whilst in Year 9.

Homework:

For those of you who are supporting a Key Stage 4 student either for the first time or for the first time in a while, High School qualifications have seen some recent significant changes in terms of examination and assessment. This means for example that students will face the bulk of GCSE assessment at the end of Year 11 for many courses rather than at regular intervals as previously. Also in many subjects students will be following brand new courses assessed nationally on a 1-9 scale rather than A*-G. There still remains examination and controlled assessments in some subjects which take place this year. Indeed some BTEC courses conduct examinations this January and Double Scientists will face Core Science exams at the end of this year

With Year 10 students sitting a large range of subjects, levels and examinations there can be no standard Year 10 'homework timetable' but the table below will give you a general guideline.

MONDAY	Options A and Science and Triple Science
TUESDAY	Maths and Option B
WEDNESDAY	Option D and Triple Science
THURSDAY	English
FRIDAY	Triple Science, Option C

There will be several opportunities during the year to meet staff and find out about your child's progress which I have outlined below:

Year 10 Information evening	Thursday 20 October 2016
Year 10 Progress checks issued	18 November 2016 and 24 February 2017
Year 10 Parents Evening	Thursday 12 January 2017
Year 10 Report issued	Friday 14 July 2017
Year 10 Internal examinations	Start 5 June

Some students may express concerns about their option choices in the coming weeks. It is vital that your child's teachers and tutor are made aware of these concerns and any possible request to move group as soon as possible. Movement of option group after the first four weeks can only take place in extreme cases. If your child does wish to change options, then please contact me directly with a written request.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the Year 10 Information Evening on Thursday 20 October starting at 6.30pm, where you will be able to find out more about examination preparation, careers advice, work experience and course outlines. There has been much reported in the press recently about changes to GCSE assessments, careers guidance and post-16 options. Hopefully this evening will aim to clarify some of these matters. Could you please complete the slip below and return to your child's tutor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



A Williams
Assistant Headteacher

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Please return to your form tutor by Wednesday 19 October 2016

Student..... Tutor Group.....

*I will not be attending Year 10 Information Evening on 20 October

*I will be attending Year 10 Information Evening on 20 October and require.....seats

**please delete as appropriate*

SIGNED (Parent/Carer)..... Date.....