

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks as always for your support of the college and in particular the support of this year group. I and the tutors have met or been in contact with many of you now and continue to work alongside you and your child to improve their life chances. We have had a good start to the spring term and finally the evenings and mornings are beginning to lighten up and give us hope that spring is truly on the way.

The students in year nine continue to get praise from teachers on the whole. I am pursuing a focus on homework for the rest of this half term, tutors are using a system called Class Charts to monitor homework response and I am awaiting a full report by half term.

The link between homework and GCSE success is a self-evident one. The attitude, discipline and organisational skills alone that are required in completing homework are vital for the students to develop for use in all study and then in time, the work place. The actual content of course is vital for the knowledge needed to complete end of year exams and then onto GCSE success. The Department for Education recommends 1.5 – 2 hrs. a night for students of year 9 age, as an average. Some days will be less and some days will be more. In assembly this week my message was to expect homework, rather than hope there would be none, then you are not disappointed!

Another area I need to address is the issue of uniform and the schools and your expectations of correct uniform. There are some jeans creeping into the year group as well as some skirts that are too short. Thank you for working with us to ensure correct uniform is worn, again I will be taking a snapshot of uniform, alongside the regular monitoring that is done by tutors, and send targeted letters home. We will support in all ways possible to ensure uniform is kept at a high standard.

Many of your children continue to impress us with various areas of activities, hobbies, sports and other areas of well spent time. The evidence of the benefit of these activities is palpable in the year group as they develop into confident, capable young people.

Some of the students in the year group are spending their time raising money for the victims of Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean. They are holding a 'Bring and Buy' sale on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> January 3.15 – 6.00pm. They are currently visiting tutor groups to ask for stuff to come in to sell. We are looking for good quality scarfs, plants, board games, puzzles, books, old school blazers and sports equipment. There will be tea and coffee and some quizzes to complete. Please do support them and the hurricane victims with your donations or/and coming along and buying something.

Important Date:

We break up for **spring half term** at 3.10 on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February and start back on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

With Kind Regards



Julie Greener HOY (9)

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**Together; we care, we challenge, we excel**

<b>Tutor Grp</b>	<b>Tutor Room</b>	<b>Tutor</b>	<b>Tutor's email address</b>
9B	M3	Ms McEwan	<a href="mailto:b.mcewan@tavistockcollege.org">b.mcewan@tavistockcollege.org</a>
9D	M9	Mr Marvin/Mrs Doyle	<a href="mailto:d.marvin@tavistockcollege.org">d.marvin@tavistockcollege.org</a> <a href="mailto:r.doyle@tavistockcollege.org">r.doyle@tavistockcollege.org</a>
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