

Dear Parents and Carers

## LOOKING FORWARDS

Many thanks as always for your support over the first half term of Year 10.

The year group are starting to settle down and develop the steady approach that they need as they inch towards the GCSE exams. One of the key areas we continue to put an emphasis on is the need for good quality homework that reflects the students' ability to work as independently as possible. They are repeatedly told by me that there is an evidence-based clear and direct link between the self discipline of good home learning and the best quality exam results. They need to steadily work at this and not become flustered - it is often the "not doing of homework" that causes the anxiety

One of the ways we are supporting improved study skills is by introducing a carousel of revision techniques based workshops centred around individual subject areas. This endeavour will start after half term in tutor time. Students will begin with the core subjects on a rotation every second Thursday and will be taught and learning good revision techniques that are transferable in many ways.

Another way we are directing them to consider the self management of the pressures of school life has been through engagement with; "Humanutopia". This offers a way forward with respect to repairing and maintaining positive relationships with their peers. So far, this has been an interesting and beneficial experience for many of the year group, with the self nominated student leaders, or "heroes", developing the work with their peers across the college in a number of ways.

There are other events and opportunities happening all the time with small cohorts in the year group - they are all proven and successful strategies that will support young people through this challenging time. I ask you please to strongly encourage your child to take advantage of all the support on offer.

We are acutely aware of the complexities surrounding preparation for the GCSE examinations, so do please feel welcome and encouraged to ring or email tutors, or myself, at any time for support.

As always the contact numbers and email addresses are at the end of the letter.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your support and engagement.

Yours sincerely



Julie Greener HOY (10)

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