



6th January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We welcomed your son/daughter back to school today in an assembly for Year 10 students. Its purpose was to encourage them to reflect on the past two terms since starting Key Stage 4 and to think about the year ahead as they work towards their end of Year 10 exams and the start of Year 11. Students from our current Year 11 shared their experiences of Key Stage 4 and gave their top tips for how to make the most of Year 10 and how to stay healthy. These were some of the key messages:

- **Make the most of every lesson.** Our Year 11 students talked about how much they now realise that every lesson in Year 10 was important. They encouraged students to listen and focus in class; to get involved and ask questions; and to spend quality time on Independent Study to reinforce and recap learning in class. One student said 'if you think about it, teachers don't have much time to teach us everything we need to know; they're not going to waste it!'
- **Get into good habits at home.** Wasting time watching You Tube videos, scrolling through endless social media feeds and using their mobile phones were the biggest distractions our Year 11s encountered. They shared how important it is to find time to relax and do things they enjoy. However, they also said that finding time for work and sticking to a routine was equally important and actually reduced their stress levels, as it helped them feel more prepared for lessons and confident about their subjects.
- **Start revising now!** Many of our Year 11s shared how they wished they had started revising more in Year 10. They talked about how useful it was to make revision cards and/or mind maps about the content they learned in lessons. They also shared how beneficial using study guides were as well as GCSE Pod and/or other online learning resources. Students talked about our expectations of doing 90 minutes of study each day and suggested it can be easily manageable, if planned carefully.

For your son/daughter, 2020 is perhaps the most important year of school they've had so far; the majority of subject knowledge will be taught this year and then tested in April and again in November. Over the coming days, **please do find time to talk with your son/daughter about this letter**; the messages the assembly contained; and their experiences of Key Stage 4 to date. It would be useful to agree ways to help them manage their time out of school effectively and to help them get a good balance of study and social activities. Agree how they'll fit in their 90 minutes of work each day and how to make this manageable. Please see some key dates for Year 10 on the reverse of this letter.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact your son/daughter's tutor in the first instance. I can also be contacted on ahunter@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk for further support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Hunter
Deputy Head Teacher

Head Teacher: Mrs P Wilson BA (Hons)

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Key Dates for Year 10 Students

Review Point 2 – Monday 2nd March

Year 10 Parents/Carers Information Evening – Monday 30th March

Formal start to revision and '40 day plan' – Friday 13th March

Start of Year 10 exams – Thursday 23rd April

Review Point 3 – Monday 8th June

Start of Year 11 – Monday 29th June

Start of Year 11 mock exams – Tuesday 1st December