

September 2017

Dear Parent or Carer

It gives me great pleasure to write my first letter to you as Head of Year 10. During the summer term, I was hugely encouraged by the potential of this year group, observing very engaged students working hard in lessons. The start of this academic year has demonstrated much of the same, with teacher feedback being mostly positive across all teaching groups. As always, there will be areas we will seek to develop and improve in an attempt to give our students the very best opportunity of achieving well in Year 11 GCSE examinations and life beyond GCSE study. Our high standards and expectations will be continually reinforced by myself, the Year 10 tutor team and subject teachers.

As a Head of Year, I pride myself upon the constructive and purposeful relationships I have with students; my immediate priority is to get to know every student in Year 10. Relationships are built upon trust and shared high expectations – values I hold for myself, my tutors and the students. I will encourage students to have ambition, to become resilient when faced with difficult challenges and to develop into mature young adults ready to embrace the hard work of GCSE study. In turn, students should expect a classroom environment that will allow them to maximise learning, free from any disruption. The new behaviour policy has proven extremely successful in facilitating this and I will continue to enforce these expectations throughout this year. Classroom disruption will not be tolerated in any lesson.

We have a very experienced pastoral team that will support every student in all areas of school life. Please make note of relevant contact details for future correspondence.

Head of Year 10: Mr Dinsdale	dinsdale.k@framdurham.com
Pastoral Manager (KS4): Mrs Cresswell	cresswell.j@framdurham.com
10A Tutor: Mr Soothill	soothill.c@framdurham.com
10B Tutor: Mrs Christie	christie.j@framdurham.com
10C Tutor: Mrs Atkinson	atkinson.c@framdurham.com
10D Tutor: Mrs Hale	hale.d@framdurham.com
10E Tutor: Mr Sutton	sutton.a@framdurham.com

Attendance and punctuality at school

If your child is going to be absent from school, please leave a message on the student absence line. If this absence is prolonged, you must contact the school every day. If you wish to request an absence, your child can collect a form from Student Reception and then return it for the attention of the Attendance Officer. If your child does not have an explained absence and is not registered at the start of the school day, you will be notified by a text message.

Students who are late for school are expected to sign in at student reception where they will be given a yellow 'late slip' and are required to then attend a break-time detention. If there is a pattern of lateness this will be escalated to include lunchtime detentions.

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Uniform

The school year has started extremely well with the vast majority of our students dressed appropriately in line with school guidelines. Thank you for supporting the school in setting the standards we expect for our students. We have listened to parental feedback and, on the introduction of the new website, intend to ensure that there is further guidance regarding expectations for trousers and formal black shoes.

Careers and transition advice

As a school we are presently seeking to move our careers advice from good to outstanding. We are placing a significant emphasis on this aspect of our provision in STEP (Study, Tutor, Extended learning, Preparation) time. We may ask if you have the capacity to support us with your wide range of expertise in the world of work. Further information regarding our provision and parental support will be on the new school website when it launches.

Behaviour in lessons

Behaviour in the school is very good and this has been evident again in the first few weeks of term. We have high expectations for the attitude students demonstrate in lessons. If students fail to meet this expectation they will receive a maximum of two warnings before being removed from a lesson. A removal from lesson will automatically lead to a 'leadership detention' after school the following evening. We again appreciate the support and positive feedback we have received from parents regarding these expectations.

Homework

We believe in the value of setting regular homework across our subject areas. Topics will be posted on 'Show My Homework' which both you and your child can access. If you are unsure about this facility please contact Mr Ward at ward.f@framdurham.com. The school uses STEP time to develop skills in independent study but Directorates and Heads of Year also may run homework clubs for students who struggle to organise their time.

Progress Reporting

You will receive a Progress report at the end of each term and the dates for the Year 10 Parents' Evening is Tuesday 8 May 2018. If you have any concerns regarding progress please feel free to contact me to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Dinsdale
Head of Year 10