



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to extend a warm welcome back after the summer holidays to our St Aidan's community; our Year 9 students have made a very positive start to the new school year.

Students have returned to their routines in school extremely well. They have many opportunities afforded to them by our extra-curricular programme and so many are enjoying the benefits from this. We are encouraging all students to become as involved as possible.

Students will continue to receive twice weekly assemblies, covering a range of 'thought for the day' topics and areas which support our PSHE delivery. The students continue to make good progress with their social interactions and emotional maturity. We have reminded the Y9 students about being 'learning ready' for their lessons by bringing the correct equipment and using planners correctly. Year 9 is an important year to prepare student for their GCSE study; in some subject areas GCSE content is already being delivered.

As your child embarks on their final year of Key Stage 3, we thought it would be useful to go over what lies ahead. The first Progress Review will be issued to parents on Friday 15th December. This will report on your child's attitude to learning in each subject using the school's CODE system and their attainment in each subject. This information can help form the basis of discussions with your child about which subjects to follow at GCSE.

We will have a GCSE Options Evening on Wednesday 28th February. This will be followed up by a Parents and Carers Consultation Evening on Monday 4th March, after which pupils will make their subject choices for GCSE. Students will have a variety of support throughout this process to help make informed decisions. Subject Teachers, Heads of Department, Form Tutors and our Careers Team will be available to guide students with their individual choices.

There is also an examination week for Year 9 pupils; assessments will take place during lessons in the week commencing Monday 10th June. English and Maths exams will take place in the exam hall in more formal conditions as an introduction to the experience students will have at GCSE. A further Progress Review will be then issued on Thursday 18th July.

As Head of Year (pastoral) and Assistant Head Teacher (academic progress) we are very much looking forward to again working with this cohort of wonderful young people during this important stage of their school careers. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the arrangements for Year 9.

Yours faithfully

Mr Alker and Mrs King

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover