

# A positive start...

## **Head of Year 10 and Teacher of Art : Mrs Neal**

The year group has settled well into Year 10 and are finding their feet with the demands of studying GCSEs. They are mature, open and communicate with confidence – I am, as always, very proud of them and love to celebrate everything that makes them an individual. They have shown kindness and friendship; I know they will meet the next two years with determination and resilience. Well done Year 10 – you have got this!

# Geography: Mrs Hoodless

# 10C and Maths: Mr Ganger

My Year 10 Geographers are doing a super job of learning all about landscapes. They had a lovely time modelling erosional landscapes with play doh and showed great understanding too! They are a polite and kind bunch 😊

Year 10 maths has started off really well, great working atmosphere in the classroom and they have dealt well with new further maths content, even if they have had enough of graphs for now.

10C have started well, with lots of excellents being awarded, and we had a great time on the walk.

# English Language and Literature: Mrs Lord

I have been impressed by the positive attitudes to learning in my English class, and the whole Y10 cohort. We have nearly completed the Power and Conflict poetry anthology for GCSE English Literature, which has taken students on a journey from World War One to more recent conflicts, and more personal conflicts about identity and culture. Students have developed excellent critical thinking skills and the exam skills to analyse Poet's ideas though their use of language form and structure choices. Well done Y10 - such a promising start to both GCSEs in English!

After the half term we will be moving on to further developing our GCSE Language skills by exploring Creative reading and writing using prose extracts.

Poetry Live 2025 - Please can I politely remind parents and carers that we have a provisional booking to experience AQA Poetry Live on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 10.45am to 3.00pm at Peterborough New Theatre. This is an unmissable opportunity to see the poets deliver their poems and talk about their work. There is also a live workshop with one of the chief AQA Examiners, who will reveal how to be successful with section C unseen poetry. Tickets are disappearing - please can parents respond to the 'parent mail' to avoid disappointment.

# Music: Mr Garbett

Our Y10 GCSE musicians have settled into their roles really well and are all making great progress. We have recently been researching 1950's and 60's Rock n Roll and are now looking at 1970's and 80's Rock Anthems (they have really enjoyed looking at and analysing 'Livin' On A Prayer'!!) They are also all currently beginning to compose their own pieces which I am very much looking forward to hearing when they have completed them! Well done all!

# Business: Mr Blackbourn

A very professional start to the Business course. I am impressed with the growing levels of confidence and participation, well done.

## Computer Science: Mr Fovargue

Students approach the challenges with enthusiasm and gusto. Despite the complexity, everyone is facing the problems head on. Challenge is to be embraced and problems to be overcome and the Year 10 group have started in such a way as to excel at this. Well done, keep it up.

# Design Technology: Mr Martindale

I've been really pleased with my Y10 group this year! They have got to know each other really quickly and are really great at helping each other out. We have had a wide range of things going on, including complex Computer-Aided-Design, through to using blow torches and other machinery: nothing seems to have phased them so far!

# Spanish and SEND Co: Mrs Hickman

I have always been a big fan of this particular year group! However, it is especially rewarding to hear so many positive comments about so many of them. On a more personal note, I love my Spanish group - hardworking and enthusiastic. They are a pleasure to teach! 😊

# History: Mr Hempsall

Across the 3 GCSE History classes, Year 10 have settled in well. Students are developing a secure understanding of the first module, 'Living under Nazi Rule', which is a topic which also focuses on the value of historical evidence. It was especially pleasing to see, for example, the high quality answers on a source question produced by my own class recently, in which the purpose of the source was the focus.

For those who wish to do additional research with their child, in late Autumn we will be starting a new module entitled "The Making of America, 1789-1900" which focuses on expansion of white America in contrast to exploitation and expulsion of different peoples.



# Business: Mrs Goulding

The new year 10 Business students have settled in brilliantly! I have been really impressed with their engagement and enthusiasm in lessons and how they have thrown themselves into a new subject and their GCSE studies!

I am very excited to see what amazing things they can achieve over the next two years.

# DT-Textiles: Mrs Schwarz

I look forward to every lesson with my Y10 DT-Textiles group. They are a highly creative and talented group of students who are engaged in both lessons and homework tasks. I am sure that they will make excellent progress and enjoy great results as we work through the specification and planned projects. Long may it continue and well done for a great start!

# German: Mrs Bailey

I have two groups in German and for both I would like to say,

*"I have been really impressed by students' focus in class (especially in the double lessons!) and the mature way in which students are organising their books, making notes and asking really good questions about their learning in German. Well done everyone and keep it up!"*

# Science: Mrs Auriko

Biology have done a great job dealing with two Core Practicals. These are experiments the exam board design questions around. They have been thinking about variables, completing tables and graphs and writing conclusions. They were very mature handling maggots for their experiment on Respiration!

Chemistry have started the year in a mature way; using the checklists to ensure thorough revision. They've done a great job on their first Year 10 topic test on the periodic table.



# Food Technology: Mrs Busby

My 10's are settling in well and really enjoying their more demanding practical lessons, e.g Brioche Plait – They are so proud!