

14 September 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

At the start of Year 10 I thought it would be helpful writing to highlight a number of points.

As you are aware all Year 10 students have started their GCSE / BTEC courses which I hope they are finding interesting and enjoyable. Your son / daughter may have a number of different teachers to those they had before the summer break and we anticipate that their present teacher will be with them through the rest of the course.

Organisation and Homework

Success at GCSE / BTEC level is something every student, parent and teacher wishes for and this will hopefully be achieved by all our Year 10 pupils over the next two years. One key to success is being organised and with this in mind we will be placing greater emphasis on daily use of the student planner. As parents / carers we would ask you to make a weekly check of your son's/daughter's planner to ensure they are recording homework to be completed and by what date work is due in. If your son/daughter is frequently saying they have no homework this is unlikely to be the case; furthermore a homework you as parents can always set is a twenty minute revision session on a topic already studied. Please sign the planner by Wednesday of each week as checking by form tutors will be on Thursday.

There will be separate information coming home next week with details of homework. If you have concerns about the progress of your son/daughter, lack of understanding, deadlines to be met can I ask that you make a note in the planner for the attention of the form teacher. If you have specific concerns relating to a particular subject then please make contact with your son's/daughter's subject teacher in the first instance and/or Head of Subject; a full list of subject teachers and Heads of Department can be found on the school's web site by going to the CONTACT section and clicking on Contact Us. You can also send a message to subject teachers via admin@beaumont.herts.sch.uk or by telephone on 01727 854726.

Controlled Assessment

The nature of GCSE courses means that students will be experiencing Controlled Assessment (previously known as Course Work) in subjects during Year 10 and 11. The vast majority of Controlled Assessment work will take place during lesson time whilst subjects may set preparation for these sessions as homework. During lessons students will be clearly informed that they are participating in a 'Controlled Assessment' session during which they will be required to adhere to conditions that are similar to those in a formal examination. Students will only have a set number of lessons to complete their 'Controlled Assessment' work in each subject, so it will be important that they make the most of all the time available; any inappropriate behaviour will simply result in work being either incomplete or to an inferior standard to that the student should be aspiring to. Please do discuss the Controlled Assessments with your son/daughter and give them all the encouragement they need to perform as well as possible and meet deadlines.

Examinations

Many subjects will be entering students for modular examinations during Year 10. These will be held in the summer term. It is essential students prepare for these examinations as thoroughly as possible; no doubt each subject will provide guidance and encouragement with regards revision but students must make sure they are giving sufficient time at home to prepare; by starting revision early any concerns can then be discussed with their subject teacher(s). Many subjects have Blogs which provide a wealth of revision material and it is also worthwhile visiting the examination web sites for AQA, OCR and Edexcel from which question papers can be downloaded. Examination results will be available on **Thursday 23 August 2012**.

Well being

In an ideal world all our students in Year 10 will sail through the next two years without any difficulties but unfortunately life doesn't tend to be like that. Hopefully your son/daughter will remain fit and healthy and there will be few if any events that cause concerns; however should your child be experiencing any excess anxiety or your family has events that will directly impact on your son/daughter please do make contact with their form teacher.

Targets , Parent- Teacher Consultation and Reports

At the start of this term your son/daughter will have set themselves three targets which they will aim to achieve through this term; you will find these in their planner. We hope these targets are ones they will aim to achieve rather than being a simple paper and pen exercise; please discuss their progress towards these targets with them as the term unfolds.

The first opportunity for you to discuss your son's/daughter's progress will be at the Year 10 Parent Teacher Consultation evening on **Wednesday 9 November 2011**. As usual each student will be responsible for establishing their own appointments for this evening but if you are concerned that your son/daughter is not likely to do so in a responsible way please do make contact with his/her form teacher. Students are expected to attend these meetings.

Subject teachers will also be writing a number of reports on progress which will be delivered by your son/daughter in December, March and June.

Information Evening

A meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21 September has been arranged for parents and students regarding Controlled Assessment and Revision techniques for examinations. Please complete and return the reply slip below indicating whether you will or will not be attending this meeting.

Yours sincerely

R D Osborne
Head of Year 10

To Mr R D Osborne

Re: Information Evening Controlled Assessment and Revision Wednesday 21 September at 7p.m.

I will / will not be attending this meeting.

Student's Name: _____

Form: _____

Signature Parent/Carer: _____

Date: _____