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Dear parent/carer,

Welcome to Year 10 – Building Habits for Success

I hope you and your families have had a safe and restful summer, filled with opportunities to create lasting memories, explore new experiences, and recharge ahead of the new school year. As we now begin Year 10, your child is entering a crucial and exciting phase of their education: the start of Key Stage 4 and their GCSE journey.

This transition brings a clear step up in both expectations and personal responsibility. To thrive, students will need to draw on qualities we explored throughout Year 9: the *power of habit*, the *importance of grit and resilience*, and the *benefits of maintaining a growth mindset*. These principles are essential not only for academic success, but also for life beyond the classroom.

A growth mindset means recognising that abilities can be developed through effort, feedback and perseverance. We will continue to encourage students to seek support, ask questions, and reflect on setbacks as opportunities to grow. Building resilience over time – by embracing challenges, not avoiding them – will be key to helping students become the best versions of themselves this year.

Strong routines matter. Positive habits such as punctuality, excellent attendance (96%+), being equipped and ready to learn every day, and taking pride in uniform and appearance all contribute to a student's academic mindset. We continue to expect students to live out our ARK values: **Ambition, Respect, and Kindness** – in the classroom, around school, and in their wider interactions.

You'll also notice an increased demand for independent work and home learning. We ask for your continued support in helping your child establish a calm, focused space at home where they can study effectively. This will be vital as they begin to manage deadlines and deepen their learning outside of lessons.

As ever, if your child is feeling anxious or worried about anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch with their form tutor or myself to ensure they feel supported and ready to take on the year ahead and their journey to unlock their full potential.

Thank you for your continued help and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Simon Ford
Head of Year 10