

18 July 2024

To: Year 9 – Parent/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: End of Year 9 – Reflections and Looking Ahead to Year 10**

**Reflection**

As the academic year draws to a close, I am filled with pride and excitement when reflecting on my first month as Head of Year 9. It has been a whirlwind of activities and achievements, and I am delighted to share these with you as we prepare to transition into Year 10.

Firstly, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our Year 9 students who attended the residential trip last week. Their outstanding efforts during the three days were truly commendable, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and enthusiasm. They engaged wholeheartedly in all activities, supporting one another and forming strong bonds. This experience has undoubtedly contributed to their personal growth and sense of community.

Another highlight of the term was our school sports day. The high spirits and healthy competition among students were evident as they participated in various events. Their dedication and sportsmanship were commendable, and it was a joy to witness their achievements and support for one another.

Additionally, students have successfully completed their end-of-year tests, displaying commendable commitment and hard work. These assessments have provided valuable insights into their progress, and I am confident they are well-prepared for the academic challenges ahead as they transition into their GCSE studies.

Over the past month, I have had the privilege of getting to know many Year 9 students through various activities. Joining them on the residential trip allowed me to witness their strengths and potential first-hand. I have also had the opportunity to observe their engagement and dedication in lessons. These experiences have reinforced my commitment to enhancing our sense of community and ensuring that every student feels valued and supported.

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As we approach the end of Year 9, I want to take a moment to express how proud I am of each and every student. Their resilience, adaptability, and positive attitude have shone through during this period of significant growth. It has been a privilege to witness their development and support them through these important milestones.

Looking ahead to September 2024, I am excited to welcome them back as Year 10 students. This next chapter is particularly significant as they embark on their GCSE journey. It will be a time of focused learning, goal-setting, and personal development. I am committed to providing the support and guidance they need to navigate this important phase, and I am confident that with their continued dedication and our support, they will achieve great things.

### **Looking Ahead**

As they return in September 2024, I expect all students to arrive prepared with a clear focus on their goals. This means actively participating in lessons, completing assignments punctually, and seeking help whenever necessary. They should be ready to take on increased responsibilities and challenges with a positive attitude and determination to succeed.

A gentle reminder that adherence to the school uniform policy will continue to be important, promoting a sense of pride and unity within our school community.

Here are some key reminders regarding the uniform policy for the upcoming year:

- **Trousers**  
Should be plain black, tailored trousers. They may be slim fit, if this is a preference, but must not be leggings. They cannot be jeans, track suit bottoms, have studded pockets or be 'figure hugging'. Please be aware that some shops are pushing legging style trousers with pockets and classifying these as school trousers. They are not acceptable in our school.
- **Shoes**  
Must be plain black and polishable. If you are not sure, please ask.
- **Piercings**  
Must be simple studs (*students wearing hoops, or any other type of piercing will be asked to remove them*). Additionally, all students must be able to take part in the full curriculum. This means that, for example, piercings must be removeable for PE lessons. Please therefore ensure that your child/ward only has piercings at times when there is sufficient healing time so they can be taken out for lessons. This is likely to be the start of the Summer holiday.
- **Hoodies**  
These are not acceptable items of outerwear in our school. Please support us by ensuring your child/ward has an appropriate coat if they are cold. Do not let them come to school in a hoodie.

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If your child/ward does not have the proper uniform for any reason, please provide a signed note explaining the situation and when it will be corrected. Exceptions will not be accepted for longer than one week. For permanent exemptions, medical evidence is helpful. If this is not possible, please contact me in the first week of term to discuss the matter. Your child/ward may be issued an exception card, which they should present when questioned about their uniform. This also applies to toilet cards, which require medical evidence.

Looking forward, Year 10 marks the beginning of an exciting journey as students delve into their chosen option subjects. Muriel Strode once wrote in the poem 'Wind-Wafted Wildflowers': "I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path, and I will leave a trail". This resonates deeply as each student navigates their academic choices and opportunities with determination and curiosity. It is through this exploration and curiosity that they not only discover their passions and who they are, but develop the skills and resilience needed to overcome challenges.

Let us encourage them to embrace this transformative phase wholeheartedly, knowing that their dedication today will pave the way for their future achievements and contribute to their growth as individuals prepared to make a positive impact on the world.

### **Gratitude**

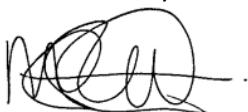
I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the warm acceptance I have received in my new role. The positive feedback and support from families has been incredibly encouraging. Over the past month, I have worked closely with many families, and the positive changes resulting from our collaboration have been remarkable. Together, we have created a supportive environment that enables our students to thrive.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that your child/ward maximises their potential and makes the most of their remaining years in school. I am excited to continue working with you to support their growth and development into well-rounded individuals.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on: [m.rowe@taverhamhigh.org](mailto:m.rowe@taverhamhigh.org) if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to assist you and ensure that your child/ward has a successful and fulfilling school experience.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable Summer break. Let's look forward to the new academic year with enthusiasm and determination.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Rowe', written in a cursive style.

Miss M Rowe  
Head of Year 9