



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

September 2018

Dear Year 9 Parent/Carer

I hope that your son/daughter has enjoyed a positive start to Year 9. I am writing to make you aware of the Year 9 reporting arrangements that should provide you with timely and helpful information about your child's progress and support the process of choosing the GCSE courses they will study in Key Stage 4.

During the academic year you will be able to meet your son's/daughter's subject tutors at Parents' Evening and will also receive two detailed gradesheets providing information about their efforts and academic achievements.

The **first gradesheet** will be issued in **early December 2018** and will include the following information for each subject:

- Effort grades for class work and homework
- Attainment Level your child is currently working at
- Progress indicator based on our expectations for your child
- Brief written comment which will include a target identifying one or two key areas for development.

Following the **GCSE Information Evening on Thursday 31 January 2019**, the **Year 9 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 13 February 2019** will give you the opportunity to discuss potential GCSE subject choices with subject tutors. We hope that these two evenings will allow you to help your son/daughter make the best choices for their GCSE studies.

The **second gradesheet** will be issued **mid July 2019** and will include the following information for each subject:

- Effort grades for class work and homework
- Attainment Level your child has achieved at the end of Key Stage 3
- Brief written comment.

Assessment & Examinations

A wide spectrum of formal and informal assessment methods are used to recognise and support progress and attainment. In day to day classroom interactions students will receive feedback; this immediate feedback is a valuable part of the learning process. During the year students will also complete a number of summative assessments, such as end of topic tests, assessed tasks or formal examinations. These take place after the learning and recognise what has been learned and understood.

Year 9 will sit **formal school examinations in the period Monday 29 April to Friday 3 May 2019**. These examinations will be held in the Sports Centre and will provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in some of the subjects they have studied this year. It will also allow them to experience the formality of working within a large examination hall.

There are also two further weeks, the weeks commencing **Monday 20 May 2019 and Monday 3 June 2019 which are designated as Years 7 – 9 assessment weeks**, in which students may sit end of year assessments in a greater range of subjects. Information about the examination timetable and the assessment weeks will be provided nearer the time.

Information about the assessment arrangements in each subject is available on the school website (under the curriculum link). The website also provides additional information that may be of interest when reading your son's/daughter's gradesheets; for example, an overview of the courses studied during the academic year and the Parmiter's Scale level descriptors.

Year 9 Science Curriculum

This year we have changed the way we deliver the Science curriculum in Year 9. Students in sets 1, 2 & 3 will study each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in rotation. This means that students will study one of the Sciences for approximately half a term, before moving on to study another Science. With six half terms across the year, students will study each Science twice. We believe this will have a positive impact on student learning as it allows students to focus on their study of each Science in turn, having three lessons per week for a period of approximately 6 weeks in that subject area. Students will be assessed before moving on to the next Science. Students in sets 4 will remain with the same teachers for the year and be taught all the Science disciplines by their two teachers. We believe this will provide these students with a positive and supportive Science experience. Please contact Mrs Berks, Assistant Headteacher (e.berks@parmiters.herts.sch.uk) or Ms R Hooper, Head of Science Faculty (r.hooper@parmiters.herts.sch.uk) if you have any questions regarding the Science curriculum.

Attendance & Punctuality

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we ask parents not to take students out of school during term time. We would also appreciate that all dental and non-urgent medical appointments are made out of school hours; this is particularly important in the assessment weeks detailed above. The attendance policy is available on the school website (under School Life, Policies).

Homework

Your child will have received their homework timetable for this year. Please note that teachers will sometimes set a longer piece of homework which is intended to cover several homework slots; students will be advised of this and all the relevant details will be available on ShowMyHomework.com.

The Year 9 homework timetable and the school homework policy are available on the school website. I would encourage you to read the homework policy, which includes a guidance sheet for parents and also guidance for students.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Tookey', written over a horizontal line.

Mr M Tookey
Assistant Headteacher