

We know we produce with your support, fine young adults who are prepared in every way for the future and this will always be a special feature of our school. Unfortunately, this does not feature on any league tables!

We completed the last academic year with many events and trips which all combine to offer many varied experiences for the students. Our aim is to continue to build in every way.

All schools' GCSE performance this year is being measured and reported in a new way. Student's attainment is measured by taking their best 8 results and awarding points for each. On this measure our students scored an average of 42 points (47 points last year). Although our attainment was not as strong as last year, our progress measures improved reflecting the fact that the year 11 cohort had a weaker starting point on entry to the school.

Results:

- 40% achieved 5A* - C grade GCSE
- 38% achieved 5A* - C including English and Maths
- 92% achieved 5A-G
- 98% of students gained at least 1 qualification

This year has been notable for the achievements of our individual students with us having the best individual performances we have ever seen. Our highest achiever gained 9 A* and one A with 11 others achieving impressive grades. We are obviously delighted and wish all our students every success in the future.

In many ways we think that the activities and work completed during this first term provide the foundation for success across the whole year. It is therefore essential that we get off to a good start.

Students can assist by:

- Being polite and well mannered
- Being on time to school and to lessons
- Avoiding absence from school
- Behaving well at all times in lessons and around school
- Wearing our brilliant uniform properly and with pride
- Completing homework - taking responsibility for their own learning
- Attending after school activities

Homework

We believe that the development of independent study through regular homework is an important way to improve exam grades. Teachers will continue to post the homework tasks on 'Show My Homework' which is accessed by clicking on the link on the school web site. This allows you to see what work has been set and when it is due. You can download copies of the support resources too. Each student has their own log-in password which allows them to see the task assigned to them. However, if you have lost it, you can always click on the whole school view and find your child's work amongst the other homework tasks set for that day.

Examinations and Assessment

Two assessment periods have been timetabled for the whole school. These are November 28th - December 9th and May 15th - 26th. These periods have been set up to help prepare our students for the examinations that they will have to face at the end of year 11.

Year 7 and 8

Induction for our year 7 students is already in full swing. We are delighted with the way our new students have settled in and set themselves high standards. An important part of our examination success has been our use of data to track students through the school. This year we will be having initial tests for students in year 7 during the week beginning September 12th where we will be gathering data so we can monitor your child's progress for the rest of the year. A data report will be available to you soon after half term and there is an initial consultation evening for year 7 parents on 8th November where you can meet the form teachers. The Year 8 consultation evening is on February 8th and the main year 7 one is on March 9th.

Year 9

Students in year 9 begin the 'Challenge Curriculum' in which GCSE courses begin to appear. Most students will be studying either French or German to GCSE level whilst in Humanities, most will begin GCSE study in either History or Geography. Year 9 students also have the opportunity to choose trial option subjects during the year in the Expressive Arts and Technology areas:

Drama, Music, Art, Applied Art, Dance, Construction, Graphics, Food, Textiles,
Resistant materials, Computing, Photography

Choices about which courses students will finally take through to GCSE in 2019 will be taken at Easter time. The options process takes place after Christmas with an information and Parents' consultation evening for year 9 on January 31st.

Year 10

Year 10 students begin their new options subject this term. The consultation evening for Year 10 parents is on May 9th next year. A two week Work Experience will take place for all year 10 students between March 27th and April 7th. All year 10 parents will be invited to an information evening about work experience on October 12th when the paperwork for this will be distributed. It is very helpful if students are able to find their own work experience placement. Please consider whether you can help your son/ daughter to find a placement which they will enjoy and learn from.

Year 11

The final year for students in the school is a very busy one. As well as consolidating the work undertaken in the previous year, students have to start making decisions about their future career pathways. A Post 16 Options Evening is to be held on October 12th for students and parents when representatives of the various colleges will be present to give advice and information. A full consultation evening for all subjects will take place on January 19th. The examination period for external exams runs from May 15th to the end of June. There are two mock exam periods - November 28th - December 9th and March 27th - 31st.

Please feel free to get in touch with the school if you wish to discuss anything about your child's progress at any time. But remember, time is short and will fly, so please raise your concerns earlier rather than waiting.

Changes in examination grading

GCSE results will be issued in a new way in August next year. The familiar A*-G grades will still be used for most subjects but for English and Maths, you will see grades from 9 to 1 being used instead. From 2018, all subjects will use the number grades. You will therefore see our assessment grades use a combination of letters and numbers so you can see how these two schemes work together. More details about these changes will be given when we issue data updates to you.

Attendance

Good attendance is vital to ensure the academic progress of your child. You recently received an information booklet which outlined our systems and procedures for dealing with attendance, but also highlighted that research clearly shows that if a child's attendance is above 95% they are far more likely to achieve their academic targets. Our highest achievers this year had 100% attendance.

Can I ask you to support the school in promoting good attendance for your child/children and make every possible effort not to take holidays during school time as well as making medical/dental appointments outside of the school day.

Just remember, one morning off school, drops the attendance figure to 95%, a day to 90% and in a very competitive world beyond school, this can be used as a decision making element to help in selection for college or employment.

A two week holiday will take approximately 35 weeks of 100 % attendance to recover.

If you need any further information or advice about attendance, then please get in contact with Miss Scargill (Attendance Manager)

Two School Closure Dates for Staff Training

November 25th and February 17th

SNAP Days

Four special SNAP days have been timetabled when the school day is changed to allow us to deliver a range of activities designed to meet social aspects of the school curriculum. The days are:

Friday October 7th

Thursday November 24th

Wednesday April 5th

Tuesday June 27th

Performances

The school will be working towards a Christmas production of 'We Will Rock You'. Rehearsals for this performance will begin straight away in September. The performance nights are 12th, 13th 14th December.

Look out too for our next Rock Challenge performance at Magna in Rotherham. Rehearsals will start in January.

We believe we will again have a fantastic year and build fully on our successes. We thank you for all your support and hope that you too can delight in the outstanding development of our school.

If at any time you would like to visit, simply give us a ring...remember seeing is believing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P Gittins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P Gittins
Headteacher