



Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the academic year I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Director of Key Stage 4. I look forward to working closely with you and your children throughout the next two years.

Year 10 is a crucial year for our students as they transition from the foundation of Year 9 into the challenges and opportunities of year 10. Our aim is to provide them with a supportive and stimulating environment that nurtures their growth, encourages independence, and prepares them for the demands of their GCSEs and beyond.

One important aspect of Year 10 is the opportunity for students to participate in a work experience placement. Work experience is scheduled for the week beginning 29th April. It is a chance for them to develop important employability skills, make informed choices about their future aspirations, and gain a taste of the world of work. Please refer to the previous communication if you have any questions about this.

I also want to highlight the significance of trial exams, which will take place in March. The trial exams help students familiarise themselves with the examination process, reducing any anxiety they may experience during their final GCSE exams. We will be working closely with students in the lead-up to these exams, providing support, revision resources, and study skills workshops to ensure they are well-prepared. If you have any questions about trial exams they might be answered here [EXAM FAQs](#), if not, please email us.

As well as having a well deserved break. It is very important that students make an effort to reduce "Summer learning loss". Here is an article summarising this means and what you can do to help: [Summer Learning Loss](#)

As with all new terms we will start with reminding the students of school expectations in terms of behaviour, attendance, punctuality, uniform and equipment. Mr Wileman will be sending a communication to you around uniform and equipment. Please let me know if you have any questions about this. It would be great to start next year with all students well-equipped and in perfect uniform so that we can focus on preparing them for the important year ahead. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Registered Office: Rush Common School
Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AW

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Throughout Year 10, we will continue to encourage and support students' personal and social development, as well as their academic progress. We have a dedicated team of teachers, tutors, and pastoral staff who are committed to providing the best possible care and guidance to your children. Communication is key to our shared success, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the Year 10 team if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We value your input and believe that together we can make this an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling year for our students.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the academic year!

Kind regards,



Mr Ben Gilkes

Director of KS4

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