



5th January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY – YEAR 9 HOMEWORK SUPPORT (PREP)

Your child should have received our revision books and Study Skills Booklet before the break and a supporting covering letter. I am now writing to inform you about some very important changes to the school day which will be implemented from January 2016. These changes are significant and have been considered very carefully, by the teaching staff, School Council, Governors and parents and it is our view that these changes, detailed below, will play an important role in helping your child in securing progress and developing the skills necessary for success.

Recent educational research shows that homework, especially in secondary school, plays an important role in students' learning, progress and attainment. To support your child in the completion of this work, we are working to support the development of independent study skills. This provision has been introduced to establish these skills, by providing all students with a calm, orderly space in which to complete their homework, with an adult at hand to support their learning. Please note that this change is designed to support all students, including the most able and we are clear that this should be seen as supportive of all.

The homework sessions, known as 'Prep' to separate them from the more general 'Homework Clubs', will be a period of one hour's independent study on two evenings per week, on Wednesday and Thursday.

Extra-curricular activities will continue to run on other evenings and exceptionally, release will be granted to attend off site competitive events as long as there is a positive record of homework completion, allowing your child to continue to pursue a variety of enrichment activities such as Debating, Sport, Choir and the Performing Arts.

I do hope that you will discuss the importance of independent study with your child and trust that it will be seen as a positive mechanism to further raise achievement and improve progress. If you would like further information I would be grateful if you could contact the Head of Year, Mr Hanna, in writing.

Yours sincerely

Ms J Heffernan
HEADTEACHER