

Thursday 1st October 2009

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to say that Year 7 has settled in very quickly and well to secondary school life with its varied day of different classes and teachers. I found the meeting last night very productive and I hope that all who attended found it helpful and reassuring. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns whatsoever about your daughters and sons. Please also note the Homework Timetable on our website.

Our Extra Curricular Activities programme has begun and I hope that students will take up at least one activity per week. We have a broad choice of activities which are posted on our website. If anyone has ideas about a club that is not available please have a word with Mr. Evans and we will do our utmost to get that club going. AAESS aims to educate the whole person and these extracurricular activities are just as important as the academic side of school life. Indeed there is a theory out there which says that commitment to a hobby is a more reliable predictor of future success than academic achievement. Perhaps this is why universities place such great emphasis on evidence of sustained commitment over a number of years to a hobby.

Students have already set their targets for this year and we are planning a non-timetabled day in January when we will look at individual student's progress towards achieving these targets.

I am aware of serious concerns about the bus service in the mornings and after school. I am looking into the whole issue of how buses are organized and run. I am treating this as a matter of urgency and I ask your patience while a solution is found.

We are now offering Travel and Tourism as an additional subject at IGCSE. This will be an alternative subject for those not wishing to take additional sciences. We hope to offer this subject right through to AS level next year. We also plan to offer General Studies as an AS subject next year.

I hope to have a good turn out for the Sixth Form Parents' Evening on 12th October from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Please note that the time advertised on our website is incorrect. Most students have settled in well to the pattern of Sixth Form life but there are still one or two who have not yet settled down. I will be requesting parent interviews during the parents' evening and I hope that you will support us in getting the best from your daughters and sons during this very critical year for them. I hope you have had time to study the university/careers handout which was given out at our first careers guidance meeting last week. Students should be thinking about the advice given and spending time following the instructions in the document.

AAESS Friends Association will hold their first meeting on Monday 5th October at 7.00 pm in the Primary Library. Please see the Friends area on our website for more information.

I am pleased to announce that our new Tuck shop is now open. It is situated next to the uniform shop.

May I wish you a calm and peaceful weekend.

Mareve Kilbride-Newman M.A., NPQH