



5 April 2019

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 10 End of Spring Term Letter

With the worst of the weather now behind us, we can reflect on a busy term as a Year 10 student at Ivybridge Community College. A big focus of ours has been mapping out our students' career options and giving them something to aspire to. We have worked with Year 10 students to identify the academic requirements of their chosen career pathway and what skills they might need to get there. Tutors have spent time discussing Work Experience with students and hopefully all students now have an exciting opportunity to gain valuable Work Experience during Enrichment Week beginning on Monday, 1 July 2019.

Whilst our GCSE summer examinations seem like they are some time off, they will come around fast. It is important students are already implementing a structured revision programme and making the most of each lesson. In Tutor time we have delivered sessions on working memory, as well as different revision strategies. Students are now spending one Tutor time each week actively revising. We strongly encourage the use of a revision timetable at home, particularly in the lead up to Year 10 end of year assessments and mock examinations. The latter will be for English, Maths and Science only and will take place in the Sports Hall, whilst the other subjects will have classroom assessments which will take place from Monday, 10 June onwards. We wish students every success in these forthcoming assessments and mock examinations.

This term, we have also been fortunate enough to have had several guest speakers from a variety of different professions come to speak to our students. The most inspiring has been Lee Spencer, the Rowing Marine. Lee lost his leg in a road traffic accident after a successful career in the Marines. He recently smashed the world record for any athlete (both abled and disabled) on an unsupported row across the Atlantic Ocean. We were lucky enough to have a live satellite phone call from Lee when he was just off the South American coast. Lee's key message of 'not to be defined by disability' has resonated deeply amongst Year 10 and is something we can apply to our own lives. We look forward to welcoming Lee back to tell us about his adventure.

We have had numerous successes of our own in Year 10 this year and I continue to be amazed by the vast array of talents amongst our students. Everything from horse-riding, swimming and golf, to gymnastics, football, rugby and netball are accounted for with students putting in a number of top performances. We also have a high involvement in enrichment activities, including charity work, drama and musical productions as well as subject specific visits. There are so many things that our students excel in and I apologise for the things I have not mentioned. There is simply not enough space.

I am proud of what our Year Group has achieved already this year and I take great delight in reading through students' profiles after each reporting round. We have an incredibly talented group of students who I have every confidence will achieve great results in their GCSE studies.

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They just need to focus on having a growth mind-set and remember..... that anything is possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at College who assist me in supporting our Year 10 students including Mrs Pearce, Miss Board and our wonderful Tutors. Finally, and most importantly, thank you to parents and carers. Your support is invaluable and much appreciated.

I wish everyone a safe and restful holiday and look forward to seeing you all after the Easter break.

Key dates

Year 10 Parents' Evening: Wednesday, 1 May 2019

Year 9 and 10 Celebration Evening: Thursday, 27 June 2019

Year 10 Work Experience: Monday 1 July to Friday, 5 July 2019

Year 10 Mock Examinations: Week beginning Monday, 10 June and Monday, 24 June 2019

Yours faithfully

Jarrad Waldron
Head of Year 10