



Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take a moment to say thank you. Year 10 have shown an unbelievable amount of resilience and character in the first few weeks and I could not be more proud of them. Whilst your child was away from school, you may not have always felt they had the best opportunity to learn, I can assure you from what I am seeing in classrooms and the feedback from teachers, it is as though year 10 never left. Their ability as a year group to easily mould into the 'new normal' of school life despite the hardship of the last 6 months is something to be admired, and they are a credit to yourselves as parents/carers.

The respect shown by our students, to themselves, each other and the community has been to the highest level. It could easily be overlooked how patiently they wait to enter school at their designated time and entrance, how they abide by the year group bubble system or the wearing of masks and regularly sanitising their hands. They show their respect by having limited contact with peers and being socially distanced from teachers and support staff, which before now was unheard of.

I would also like to commend our year group team, the continuous support provided by our PSM and year 10 tutors is something that can often go unseen, but despite the difficulties schools are facing in this current climate, our tutors still have your child's best interest at the forefront of their day, every day. Please continue to use these dedicated tutors as your first point of contact over the coming year.

To enable the year group to be successful with their GCSE exams, I have spent these first few weeks promoting our Hylands Habits, these are key attributes our students will emulate and I ask you to join me in this shared language with your child. Last year your child's aspirations were sky high and the excitement towards choosing their GCSE options was the highlight of my year. We will continue to enhance these aspirations by starting to discuss 'Life after GCSEs' and start thinking about where their results could take them.

With under two years until their final exams, we are highlighting the need for students to be independent and take responsibility for their learning; to communicate with teachers when they are struggling, to push and challenge themselves in every lesson and to use the expanse of resources that are at their fingertips.

Our students are already building their resilience; they are consistently working hard despite the current climate, uncertainty and the fearmongering of the world around them. Year 10, know they may face difficult challenges over the next couple of years and they know that they will get through them and remain on their path to success.

Hylands School

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I see excellence in this year group every morning when I greet them at the gate, now they are back at school this year group will again start to see this within themselves and the opportunities that await them in the future.

I once again would like to thank you for your ongoing support to your child and our school, and for keeping yourselves and us safe.

Yours Sincerely

Mr W Bayston
Head of Years 9 & 10

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